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The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

AUGUST 28th, 1980 ★ ISSUE NUMBER 35

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

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The glut of sand eels in New York waters has made diamond jigging one of the most sure-fire means of scoring with the tenacious chopper. See Richard Giessuebel's article on Staten Island bluefish techniques beginning on page 14.

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Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, NEW JERSEY EDITION
Fred Golofaro, EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman, NEW ENGLAND EDITION
W. A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Rich Reina, PRODUCTION MANAGER

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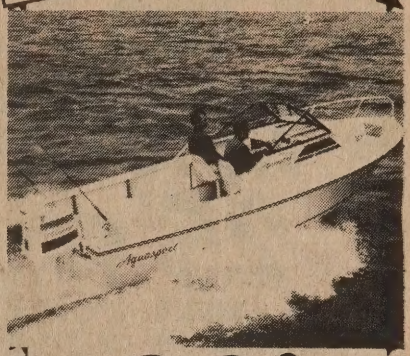

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CHUM LINES

ED HARING COMPLIMENTS ARTICLE

Congratulations on your fine article "Til Death Do Us Part." It summed up surf casting better than anything I read previously. It was also a welcome change from the usual run-of-the-mill pieces.

I have not put in as much time as I once did, but my batting average is higher. I guess I have to blame it on lack of energy rather than the shortage of fish. Those waders get heavier every year and the distance to my fishing spots gets longer, too. I just can't convert to bait and fish the way Father Time thinks best.

Matt Ahern and I started out in the same area at the same time and ran pretty much parallel until 1950. Armed with a new rod and reel, one tin and borrowed boots, I set out for Cape Cod. I was the one that got hooked. I enjoy Matt's Old-Timers' column and have often told him so.

I jump at things I don't like, such as the saltwater license, so I feel impelled to give a pat on the back to what I do like. Speaking of licenses, I got hit for $17.50 for 7 days here. It is my first try in freshwater since I was 16—fifty years ago! Keep up the good work. *E. J. Haring, Bklyn., N.Y.*

Ed, who is a frequent contributor and correspondence friend, took the time to write us a note from his summer vacation spot in Maine. Ed, when you get back we'd like to hear how your first freshwater experience in many years turned out. We really appreciate hearing about how our readers feel about the articles and features that appear in L.I.F. It's human nature to like to be complimented, but the criticism we receive is not unappreciated because it helps us to do better. In this case, since I'm the author of the piece Ed refers to, and because I really tried to put a lot into it, I'm glad that it was well received by at least one of our readers and friends. Surf fishing has, and is changing so much that I'm afraid that much of the color that was once unique to the sport may fade away. I think it's important to keep such memories and traditions alive—at least in story form if it can't be in reality. Over the years, I've know a lot of great beach rats—real characters, and any one of them could be immortalized in a Reader's Digest piece. Perhaps I'm too much of a romantic, but to me these people meant something and still do today. Dr. W. A. Muller.

PRAISES CAPTAIN

On August 5, I went fishing on the Ginnie Mae out of Island Park with a friend of mine and five other people. The Captain is Bill Henriques of Valley Stream and we have been going with him three or four years now. We were really socked in with fog almost all day. We kept radio contact all day with a boat named Skipper. On the way in, the captain of the Skipper informed Bill that he was in sight of us but having fuel pump problems. Bill immediately reduced speed and circled back toward the skipper. Finally, the engine on the Skipper quit and Bill kept circling him while they blew out the fuel lines, changed the filter and tried everything possible to get started again, but to no avail.

One of the other people on board (I will NOT call him a fisherman) suggested that Bill call the Coast Guard and just leave them there and go on. I have never seen Bill so angry in the years we've been fishing with him. He told this person the captain of the Skipper was a friend of his, but even if he didn't know the person, he could not leave him there in the fog. We finally were able to hook up a tow-line and proceeded to tow the Skipper to his dock. Then, when Bill was satisfied that the other boat was safe and secure, we proceeded to Bill's landing. Sure, we got in late as hell, but that could have been US out there, riding at anchor with no power to get us out of the way of an oncoming tanker or freighter. I always thought very highly of Bill as a captain and a gentleman, but now he goes all the way to the top. He is a seaman of the FIRST ORDER OF SEAMEN. *F. Schott, Woodside NY.*

APPLAUDS L.I.F. EDITORIAL

Just read your article in The Long Island Fisherman, July 17 issue, and commend you for it. It puts my feelings into print also.

I am afraid the problem of selling for profit has been with us since money was thought of, to be used as a medium of exchange.

Remember, a human being can placate his actions to himself, even to the point of murder.

I have been in the tackle business since 1946, and have heard the bragging of big name bass fishermen selling their catch all through the years. Naturally they placate their doing so by saying it helps defray the cost of their equipment. My only question to this is: how does a golfer, skier or handball player defray the cost of their equipment? Of course, their pat answer is the all-human quote "That's different"—but is it? That is for one to search his own soul.

The following is to give you an example how I really feel. I control a hunting club on property I rent in Narrowsburg, N.Y. All members have to be customers of my business and also pay $100 per year dues for upkeep, taxes, etc. Last hunting season one member sold his dues for $100 and it got back to me. I promptly banned him from the club. (He

happened to be a personal friend of mine also.) The cost to me personally over the years will be substantial in sales, but that is where I draw the line. Sports is supposed to be a pleasure, not a business.

In closing, all I can say is you wrote a very moving article in my eyes. I only hope there are many others who feel the same way.

Good for you! We wish more folks would stand up and be counted. It is obvious that you have "put your money where your mouth is" by taking a strong stand on something you believe in. The depletion of some stocks of fish and the tremendous increase in commercial inshore fishing means that our "sport" may be in jeopardy. In the years immediately ahead, all of us will have to examine our real reasons for fishing and make a judgement about how important it is to us. If we decide that it is very important, then we must be willing, as you are, to stand up for that belief. There will likely be very important battles ahead of us; battles that we must take on in order to protect our sport. It is a sport, a great sport, and it's worth fighting for! W.A.M.

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A complete and comprehensive Safe Boating Course will commence Tuesday, September 9, 1980, 8PM, Floyd Bennett Field, Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y., Building 272.

Sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 11-2, the instructors will be teaching a 14-week course that will continue through December 16, 1980.

GREAT SO. BAY TOURNEY

The 7th annual Great South Bay Tournament sponsored by the Babylon Tuna Club, will be held Saturday, September 6, 1980, 6AM to 4PM, with headquarters at the Babylon Village Dock. Alternate date, Sunday, September 7.

The contest is open to all fishermen and all boats—big, small, rental, etc.; $5 per angler and $50 per club team.

Registration is at the dock from 6AM to 9AM. Fishing time 6AM to 4PM. Prizes will be given for weakfish, bluefish, blackfish, striped bass, flounder and fluke.

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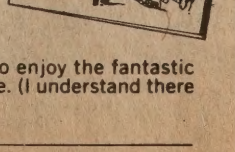

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NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

DOMESTIC LONGLINERS MAY CREATE MORE PRESSURE ON TUNA STOCKS

Things can change rapidly on the bluefin tuna front, so forecasting what will go on for the rest of the season can be very risky. Last year, there was a big run of "mini-giants at Montauk during the last week in August, and the unexpected late fall run in the Mud Hole was a boom to Metropolitan anglers. Nevertheless, when viewed as a whole, last year's fishing was a little disappointing—and as of mid-August, this year's is far worse.

The basic problem has been spelled out in this column many times before. It is the inability of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to come to grips with the necessity of building up the stocks of school bluefins, even if this might cause some inconvenience to a few tuna seiners. There's also been another unsettling factor: the intense Japanese longline fishery targeted on pre-spawning giant tuna in the Gulf of Mexico early each spring, plus a high "incidental" catch of school and medium bluefins during Japanese longlining operations in the North Atlantic. Now we're about to run into yet another buzz saw. It seems that domestic commercial vessels are rigging up for giant tuna fishing in the Gulf next spring, and the possibility exists that they could wipe out the quota we fish on before the giants ever get anywhere near us!

In order to resolve the domestic longliner situation, NMFS held a scoping meeting on August 20 in Washington. The new domestic longline fishery may place burdens on the fishery which it cannot withstand, and the development of a new bluefin directed fishery may be contrary to the commitments of the United States under the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The two basic actions by ICCAT in 1974 were to prohibit the taking of tuna weighing less than 6.4 kilograms and to limit all ICCAT nations to "recent" levels of harvest. The quota system under which American fishermen are allowed to catch bluefin tuna is an outgrowth of the latter requirement.

The sudden interest by American fishermen in the Gulf stems from two recent developments. First is the many problems being experienced by the shrimp fleet. Mexico has closed off some traditional fishing grounds and there are too many domestic vessels competing for the resource in our waters. In some areas shrimp are declining, and rapidly increasing fuel prices are driving prices so high that consumers are either turning away from shrimp or looking for cheaper foreign shrimp. As a result of all this, many shrimp boats are converting to longlining. Swordfish were the initial quarry, but that fishery already seems over-capitalized—and if the fishery isn't already declining, it soon will. Therefore, many of these boats are seriously looking at the 8,000 pre-spawning giants taken from the Gulf in February, March and April by the Japanese—and at the $2.50 to $4 a pound they can get for them at that time!

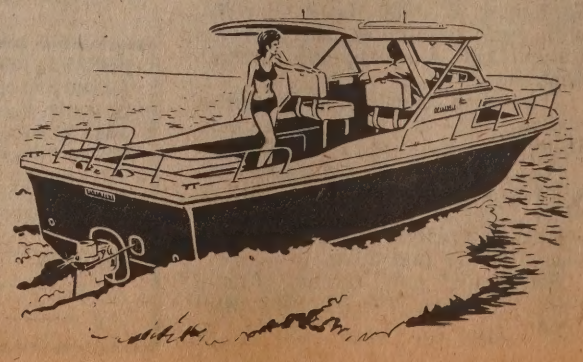
At present, the regulations don't address the longline fishery. NMFS estimates that there are some five hundred U.S. vessels that could be affected by any action, so it's easy to see the potential for disruption of the fishery. As things now stand, all areas to the south of Cape Cod share a two hundred seven tuna quota, and it wouldn't take long for the longliners to chew that up before the fish ever get to us.

The alternatives proposed by NMFS are as follows:

1. Allow for a directed Atlantic bluefin longline fishery by:
   a. re-allocation of the existing handgear quotas for the historical fisheries in the Northeast.
   b. eliminating or reducing the purse seine fishery for school tuna and re-allocating that tonnage, in giants, to New England and the Gulf of Mexico.
   c. withdrawing from ICCAT, repealing the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act, placing bluefin tuna under the Fishery Conservation Management Act (FCMA) and using the Japanese catch previously taken in the Gulf of Mexico fishery conservation zone (FCZ) as a basis for expanding the catch.
   d. submitting new ICCAT proposals that could result in a reduction of the Japanese catch and provide the U.S. more flexibility in re-allocating among domestic users in the bluefin tuna fishery.
2. Allow a reasonable, but limited, incidental catch of Atlantic bluefin tuna to U.S. longliners.
3. Establish critical habitat windows in the Gulf of Mexico and off the East Coast of the U.S. where longlining would be prohibited.
4. Do not provide for any new U.S. Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery.

Without having any definite information at hand, I have a sneaking suspicion that NMFS will give a great deal of attention to alternative 1.d. The idea of going to ICCAT to ask for a reduction in the Japanese catch, in order to provide that to the domestic longliners, undoubtedly appeals to the bureaucrats. Of course, that approach probably wouldn't succeed, and if it did there would be a time frame of years involved. Politically, it would be bad move to re-allocate quotas from the Northeast to the Gulf, and NMFS has shown no stomach for facing up to even the small Eastern purse seiners—much less the politically powerful West Coast tuna interests. Alternative 1.c. would probably be the easiest way to go, but State and the West Coast tuna lobby are dead set against including tuna in the FCMA. Even the wording of this alternative is designed to scare off the cautious. We're first told that we must withdraw from ICCAT before placing the bluefin tuna under our 200-Mile law. That just isn't so. Portugal has tuna under their 200-mile limit, but still retains membership in ICCAT.

At least for the time being, Alternative #4 looks like the best bet. By simply keeping the season closed until June, there will be no longlining for tuna in the Gulf. While I'd rather see American longliners catch these giants than foreigners, the important point to remember is that we have to build up the depleted stocks of smaller fish. Given the relative lack of medium size tuna, we remain dependent on the old giants to provide an adequate spawning stock. The Japanese longline fishery was just starting in the Gulf when we were blessed with the last good tuna year class (1974), but the combined pressure of the Japanese on the giant fish and the purse seiners on the schoolies has led to a continued decline in the fishery. What we need is not a substitute for the Japanese, but protection of pre-spawning giants from all pressure—at least until such time as the population recovers and a controlled harvest might be justified. Since there will be no hearings in our area, comments should be addressed to Mr. Allen Peterson, Regional Director, Northeast Region, NMFS, 14 Elm Street, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930.



A while back, I participated in a bass contest organized by the Long Island Bassmasters. The "catch and release" event was held on Montauk's Fort Pond. With partially overcast skies, most of the competing anglers were hopeful that good sized bass would be caught. Fort Pond, incidentally, is noted for its lunker largemouth bass. This big bass reputation caused the majority of contestants to seek out the largemouths. But on this day, the bucketmouth would not prevail. One lucky Bassmaster saw to that. His fine catch of smallmouth bass was more than sufficient to take the day's top honors.

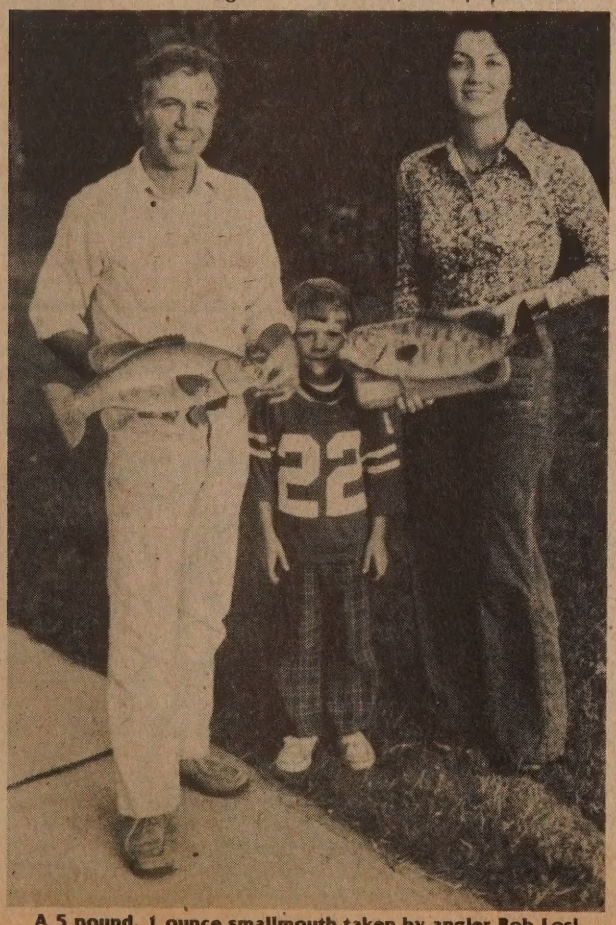
FRESHWATER FISHING

with Angelo Peluso

THE BRONZE BRAWLER

saw to that. His fine catch of smallmouth bass was more than sufficient to take the day's top honors.

The fact that the smallmouth makes its home in some of the Long Island waters might come as a surprise to some, but **Micropterus dolomieui** has chosen to take up residence primarily within the waters of both Fort Pond and Shelter Island's Fresh Pond. I might add that the populations of smallmouths concentrated in each of these locations are considerable. Smallmouth bass also happen to be scattered throughout the Island, with populations at these areas not very significant.



A 5 pound, 1 ounce smallmouth taken by angler Bob Losi and a 4 pound, 8 ounce beauty caught by anglerette Annette Kent. Both fish were taken on Long Island.

I have learned from Department of Environmental Conservation's fisheries manager, Al Kellar, that very strong year class populations have been discovered in Fresh Pond. Once contemplating reclamation of the Pond, Al reconsidered when local anglers informed him of a recent upsurge in the smallmouth catches. Apparently, the lake had undergone a revitalization.

Fort Pond, though, has remained as the consistent producer of Long Island "smallies." Many fine catches have come from this lake's waters. Farmingville angler Bob Losi and anglerette Annette Kent have each captured lunker smallmouths from this location: 5 lbs. 1 oz. and 4 lbs. 8 oz., respectively. Those are nice fish anywhere in the state, as well as anywhere in the northeast.

Though limited in scope due to confinement within the bodies of water previously mentioned, the smallmouth still offers fine sport to those who endeavor to take pursuit. The bronzeback is an unquestionable brawler and its fighting ability, once experienced, is not easily forgotten. The fish is a magnificent aerial performer whose jumps often dislodge an angler's lure. It was the smallmouth bass that inspired Dr. James Hendshall's famous quote citing the fish as being the toughest, "...inch for inch and pound for pound."

Let's now take a look at this superb game fish. The smallmouth was native originally within the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River and Ohio, Tennessee and upper Mississippi Rivers; it has since been introduced into all areas of North America. Though a member of the sunfish family (as is its closest relative, the largemouth), the smallmouth differs in many ways. Its physical characteristics are the most obvious and can be distinguished from the largemouth in the following ways:

- The upper jaw of the smallmouth extends to the middle of the eye; whereas in the largemouth it extends beyond.
- The cheek scales are smaller than those of the largemouth.
- Blotch-type lines appear around the eyes and head.
- Vertical blotch-type stripes on the fish's body.
- There is a shallow notch between the dorsal fins. The largemouth has a deep notch.
- The smallie has 14 dorsal rays.
- The smallmouth's coloration takes on a bronze hue, hence the nickname "bronzeback."

Unlike its big-mouthed brother, the smallmouth prefers colder water over a sand or gravel bottom. Additionally, this bass also prefers moving water and in some instances, rapidly moving water. Smallmouth bass, therefore, often take up residence in streams, rivers and in locations such as dam spillways. The smallie is also attracted to rock type structure—either visible or sub-surface. Structure formations of this type are the primary fish attractors within Long Island's smallmouth waters. Rocks that are located in or around deep water (fifteen to twenty-five feet on Long Island) should be investigated as potentially productive hotspots. Fort Pond has several such locations.

The fishing techniques for the smallmouth are somewhat different than those used for largemouth bass. The differences, once again, are attributed to the differences in habitat and basic habits. Though both bass are warm water species, the smallmouth has a marked preference for cooler water. In Long Island waters, this means that you will probably find them in deeper locations, on average, than you would the largemouth. If you are lucky, you might just happen upon one of the many underwater springs that provide a water source for some of our lakes and ponds. As a general rule, the water that emanates from springs is usually cool, and sometimes even cold. During the hot days of late summer, the spring is a good place to find bass. It would probably be worth your while to carry along a small thermometer and periodically test the temperature of the water that you are fishing. If you come across a location where the water temperature is lower than surrounding temperatures, work the area thoroughly. Bass have a tendency to

(Continued on page 21.)

FISH TALK with William A. Muller

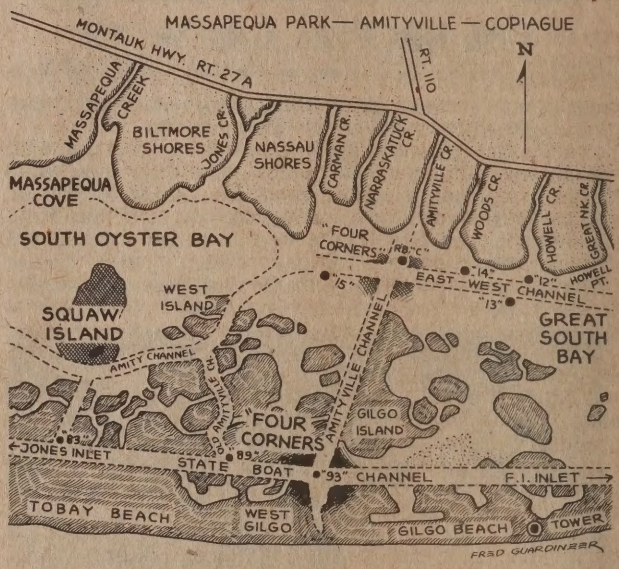
WHERE ARE THESE PLACES?

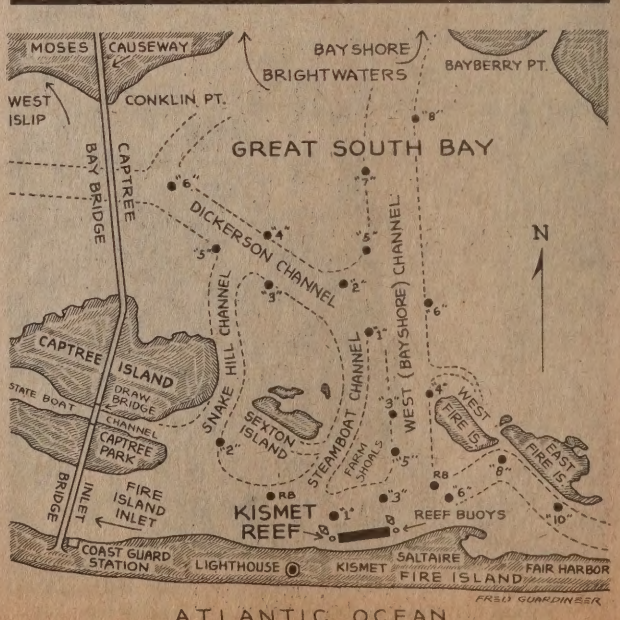
HOW TO FIGURE OUT COLLOQUIAL NAMES! Did you ever hear one fisherman tell another, "I got the fish at apple tree bend," and not know where apple tree bend was? Perhaps you went scurrying for a chart or map and to your surprise there was no such place on that chart or map. This kind of thing happens very often and the habit goes back to the days when many areas didn't have names. Prior to being developed, fishermen had to make up names for places. Then, too, there was the desire to have a name for a place that couldn't be recognized unless the person was in the "group." In this way, information could be communicated without spilling the beans to everyone. Finally, places often look different from a boat or beach than they do from a car, and if the person is looking at a spot at night it may not resemble the "day" version at all. Perhaps whereas a spot has a perfectly good formal name the people fishing there do not know what it is and after a quick look around they come to the conclusion that the lay of the land resembles the bend in a limb of an apple tree—thus the place becomes forever known as apple tree bend. Anyway, from time to time, we get letters from our family of readers who ask the question, "Where is apple tree bend?" Most of the time they read about fish being taken in these places in our fishing reports and want to know where they are. Now, before you get down on the folks who take, and make up the fishing reports and ask why standard village names aren't used, remember that the reports are listed by area and that many places in the middle of a bay simply have no other name than the one fishermen have given to it.

TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE LETTER FROM JOHN REID. "Would it be possible to print in one of your weekly columns, a map of the fishing spots that are mentioned so many times. I read about fish being taken at these locations in your fishing reports from Great South Bay and elsewhere. For example, where is Four Corners, Squaw Island, Kismet Reef, and Massapequa Cove. I think that it would be a great help to many good readers to know where the areas are that are so often talked about." Well, John, you asked for it and you got it. We naturally called upon our resident artist and Great South Bay angler, Fred Guardineer for assistance; as usual, Fred came through. We decided to accept the idea that has been handed down from many generations that one picture is worth a thousand words. Thus, included are two maps of the area that have been drawn by Fred. However, things are not always as simple as they seem and Fred points out in his covering memo to me what some of the difficulties are. "Four Corners, Squaw Island, and Massapequa Cove are close enough in South Oyster Bay to fit them onto one map. Kismet Reef is ten miles thataway east and requires a separate map. The Four Corners can actually be a couple of places, as shown on my map. Also, west of Squaw Island there are any number of Four Corners referred to as such as by the local natives. The area most often referred to as the Four Corners is the intersection of the Amityville Channel and the State Boat Channel. A minority refer to the Four Corners as the intersection of the Amityville Channel and Babylon Town's east/west channel. Incidentally, I discussed all this with Amityville Bait and Tackle dealer George Combs to make certain all was well at Four Corners."

WORLD'S RECORD LETTER! Well, actually the letter wasn't a world's record—but it was a record for this column. Would you believe eleven full pages! Well, I must tell you that I **don't** want to encourage more of you to send in letters like that, although it is sure a pleasure to hear from so many of you and to share your ideas on many topics. However, a short note will make it a lot easier on Doc's old eyes. Happily, I have been hearing from many readers and I love it, but try to keep the letters to about a page if you can. It also makes it easier for me to include them as quoted in the column. The letter in question comes from Richard Mammano of Mahopac, New York. I can't reprint his letter, but I have made a list of Richard's key points and I think they are important, and thus should be shared with our family.

OFFICIAL ABUSE! One of Richard's first points was that our elected officials not only are responsible, in many cases, for abuses of the law but fail to take action that could prevent environmental and fisheries rip-offs. "The election of only those politicians who have a proven track record in favor of the angler should be endorsed and elected by we, the fishermen. It seems that none of us ever want to be associated with politics in any shape, matter, or form—including L.I.F., and at times I agree." Wait a





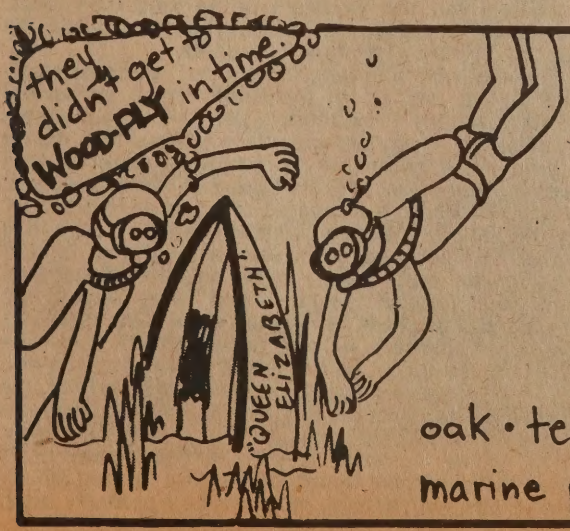
minute, Richard. We must agree with the first half of that sentence, and in fact, we hope to provide information on politicians and their records so that fishermen can vote with more authority; but when you say that L.I.F. hasn't been involved in politics, you are dead wrong. Our neck has been so far out so many times into the middle of the political arena that it has permanently stretched. As examples, we offer the Fish Trap problem, the 200-Mile Limit, the recent Congressional Oversight Hearings in Washington, the public hearings on the bluefish, the striped bass controversy in Albany, the Department of Environmental Conservation and, of course, the saltwater license issue. How about Congressman Ambro and the Long Island Sound dumping problem? Would you call that apolitical? We are political and we'll stay that way because there is a lot to be done. However, as Scott Simons pointed out in an editorial the third week in June, there isn't enough time to attack all the issues and all the problems. To do that, we need a well-organized, committed body of saltwater fishermen to work for what we believe in. In that respect, you are correct: many people are frequently apathetic about the things that are crucially important in their lives.

BIG FINES FOR VIOLATIONS! Richard suggests that there should be very big fines for violations and that those monies should go to correct or improve the environments that were violated. This philosophy should even extend to governments. He points out that the governments that pass the law should not be immune from adhering to it. You are so right, Richard! However, in this day and age it has become harder and harder for governments to say, "Do as I say, not as I do." There are simply too many groups and too many citizens inspecting everything that government does. Sure, there are things that slip by and then we should get on them in a hurry. You ask what becomes of fees and fines associated with such enforcement and we can tell you that they go into the General Fund and are never heard from again. You are right in insisting that these monies be earmarked for the environment.

MONEY FROM FOREIGN FISHING FLEETS! You state: "Let's license the foreign fishing fleets for the privilege of fishing in U.S. waters." The foreign fleets do pay for the privilege. That was one of the provisions of the 200-Mile Limit law. That is, not only does a foreign nation have to apply for a permit, and not only do they have to confine their fishing to prescribed areas, but they also must pay a fee. In addition, when there is a violation, they must also pay a fine when found guilty of the violation. However, I believe that you are suggesting fines and fees that are so steep that it would discourage them from fishing in our waters. That may or may not be a good idea, depending upon your point of view. For instance, there is some merit to the notion that if we allow the foreign fleets to fish in our waters on a restricted basis, that this will lend credibility to the establishment of a 200-mile fishing jurisdictional limit. In addition, it permits us to establish and enforce meaningful management plans. This philosophy is apparently sound since, unlike other nations with large territorial boundaries who have experienced great difficulty with other nations (e.g., Iceland and Great Britain almost going to war several years ago), we have had great cooperation from almost all of the nations who had formerly fished in our waters. By and large they have conformed to the management plans.

YOU FOLKS ARE LIKE CLOSE FRIENDS! Richard writes: "L.I.F. is more like close friends to its readers...Good job!" Thanks Richard; we feel the same way about our readers. I know that I look forward to receiving letters from readers more like they were letters from a relative or friend I haven't seen in years rather than having the feeling that it's just part of the job. This kind of tight affection has developed over the years and I think it is principally due to the original and continuing philosophy of the publication's publisher and founder, Rich Reina. He insisted—and still does—that those on staff be fishermen who are out there often and thus can fully understand the why, where, and how of our local fishing scene. He also insists that the habitats and the fish must come first, the readers second, and L.I.F. last. He insists that the fishing reports be honest and as helpful as possible, and he insists that we constantly pioneer new fishing techniques and approaches and that we tell it like it is. If a product is good, tell the readers so that they know it's worth buying and don't promote one that you have found isn't up to snuff. I guess that's why it's so much fun to work with this publication and perhaps why our readers say it's fun to read.

SPECIAL CONTEST! "I always favored contests in magazines since it awakens reader interest. Anyway, I had my own idea for the prize. The weekly or monthly winner could receive the privilege of going fishing with one of the various L.I.F. staff members. Surf fishing with 'Doc' Muller, sinker bouncing with Matt Ahern, offshore with Al Ristori, and fishing The Bronx environs with Andy, the Godfather." Well now, that may be a great idea and I can imagine why you might want to fish with the others mentioned. But why me? First of all, I spend a lot of hours in the suds and catch little, if anything, because that's the way surf fishing is, and I've been told that I'm very crotchety and even my wife and sons often opt not to fish in the surf with me because I can get downright nasty. You see, when there are no fish, I get uptight because there are none and when they are there, I don't want to be bothered so that I can make the most of every moment I'm there. Don't I sound like a real delight? But I'll tell you, I would not mind spending a day or two with the other people you've mentioned. I'd do my best to pick their brains clean of every last scrap of information. Those are powerful good fishermen you mentioned. I'll toss it around at a staff meeting and we'll see who volunteers.



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It may be an obvious understatement to say "follow the bunker," but perhaps you'd be surprised to find out how many potentially excellent fishing opportunities are overlooked by surf fishermen simply because the bunker aren't in the places where surf fishermen usually fish.

We get used to fishing the open surf, Montauk beaches, the back bays, and the inlets. We also scrounge around a little in Long Island Sound, but most of that is in

FOLLOW THE BUNKER

the spring of the year. Therefore, if there are a lot of bunker, with their attendant big blues deep in a harbor or so far back in one of the South Shore bays that few fishermen discover them, then it's easy to understand why surf fishermen may miss the boat. We're all creatures of habit and often our habit of looking for fish in the surf according to tried-and-true productivity pays off; but there are also times when it can hurt us because we fail to look elsewhere when the usual haunts don't produce.

Therefore, let me try to convince you to "follow the bunker"—not along the beach, but elsewhere. First, there is the question of where to look. Let's begin with the South Shore. Since many of the South Shore bays bend and weave and are crisscrossed by many bridges and roads, it is convenient to drive around and check for the presence of bunker. The bunker don't have to be flying out of the water for bass, blues, and weaks to be feeding on them. Many times, the bunker reveal themselves as a round ripple patch on a calm afternoon, but once the sun goes down the predators move in. If there are a lot of game fish feeding on the bunker, it is likely that the bait will explode from time to time as they attempt to flee. However, many times there will be only a pod of game fish working on the bunker. This is especially true of big bass since larger stripers seem to like to hunt in these small pods. They can be very dainty feeders at such times. They will spread out around the bunker school and will pick off the stragglers. The surf fisherman should always try casting big white plugs to the edges of the school of bunker in the hope that there are a few predators lurking. If you don't get a rise or a hit, then perhaps there are no predators about. Even though the feeding may be "polite," the presence of big fish will have at least some effect on the school of bunker. Watch the reaction of the school carefully. If the school stays in one place for a prolonged period of time and simply swims around and around, then there is a good chance that there are no predators in the area. However, if game fish are present the school may move suddenly and bolt in one direction or another. There are also times when the center of the bunker school may cause the water to rise up slightly and the ripples may become denser. These are signs that predators are around and pestering the bunker.

When you are on these bunker hunts, as I call them, be sure to carry one or two snatch rigs: large treble hook with lead molded around the shaft. Although large plugs may coax game fish to feed, a wounded live bunker will usually be even more effective. A surf fisherman needs to get a feel for the situation. Are there predators present? Are they bass, blues or weaks? Bass require no wire leader. Guess wrong and use the wire leader because you believe the predators are blues and the bass may shy off the wire completely. Result: no bass! On the other hand, guess that the fish are bass when they are blues and you'll be bit off. Just to round out the dilemma, if weaks are feeding on the bunker, you'll need a smaller treble hook so that the weaks have a better chance of swallowing the bunker and hook combo.

So, how can a fisherman get around this problem? Although there are many approaches, it is probably a good idea to set up your tackle bag for the bunker hunt a little differently from the usual plug fishing. I carry a few big plugs, just in case, and then I make sure that I have a few wire leaders rigged with 5/0 or 7/0 treble hooks, several forty pound mono leaders with similar size hooks, and several thirty pound mono leaders rigged with 3/0 trebles in case the quarry are weaks. You'll also need a few snatch rigs, as I mentioned earlier. You can make these yourself and you can also use a large tin with a treble hook on the back, but the professionally made snatch rigs are generally more effective.

Although it is possible to use spinning tackle for this fishing, many of the beach rats who do this type of fishing insist that conventional reels are better. I tend to agree, since a conventional reel makes it easier to control the roaming bunker. However, many a fine fish has succumbed to spinning as well.

Okay! We have the tackle and we have a good place to look. We are also ready for whatever species we may encounter. We can practice reading the water and we will learn to associate certain types of bunker behavior with the presence or the absence of game fish. The only hitch to this great game plan may be the gas that we'll consume in our search for the bunker. Each of us will have to make an independent decision about that. It is probable that if there are good numbers of fish around in the more obvious places and available using the standard approaches that surf fishermen will opt not to follow the bunker. However, there are those lean times when, in spite of all indications and the prime level of the season, that the fish just aren't responding and it is then that the bunker hunt may be the perfect solution. Don't expect to catch fifteen or twenty fish doing this. This type of fishing is a "pick." However, the consolation is that the fish you pick will be quality. If you find blues, they'll most likely weigh in the teens. If it's bass you find, then they will likely be over twenty pounds and if weaks are the target, most of these will be around ten pounds with a good shot at a fish that will weigh-in at the mid-teen level.

These predator/prey dramas don't always take place deep in some bay cove or remote drain channel. Often the activity is right in the main channel that leads out into the mouth of the inlets. These fish are a lot easier to find, but the drawback is that you'll have lots of company. Further to the west, there is ample activity in Jamaica Bay and Frequently this action takes place on the extensive flats. Be careful, since this may be tricky wading. It's best if you learn the area before you fish. Whether it's the back coves of the eastern end of the bay, the inlets proper, or the flats of the western end, there will likely be one major similarity: night! Don't expect too much activity during the day. You may see the bunker schools, but only infrequently will the predators be working them over. Nonetheless, sharpies use the daylight to locate the bunker and return after dark for a check.

Perhaps this "following the bunker" business really comes into its own up on the North Shore, for several significant reasons. First, there is less remote back waters and, therefore, much less ground to survey. That means there is more potentially productive water within convenient surveillance by the fisherman. This saves gas, time, and improves the chances of success. In addition, since the water of the open Sound is often quite calm, it is possible for there to be visible activity that a surf fisherman can reach taking place outside the harbors. Third, since much of the hot action takes place in the harbors and since these harbors are quite deep, there is a much better chance that large game fish will chase the bunker into the harbor and keep them there for days at a time. There are several disadvantages, however. First, the harbors are wider than the back-bay South Shore channels and therefore the fish may be out of casting range. Second, unlike the South Shore there are many boats moored in the harbors and if the fish are feeding among the moorings, then holding them will be a problem: bring

plenty of rigs! Third, the predator will usually be bluefish. Now, this may not seem like a horrible problem, especially since it isn't unusual for these blues to reach twenty pounds or thereabouts, to those bass fanatics among us, eliminating the chance for a big bass simply cancels out the fishing.

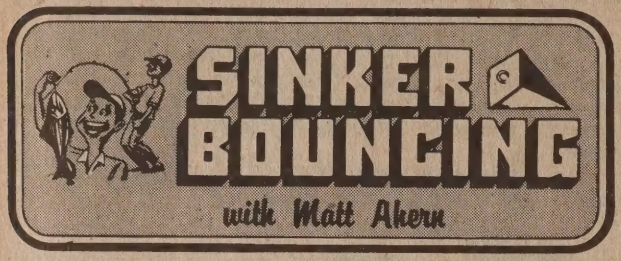
There is another big advantage to the North Shore harbor scene. That, in a nutshell, is that the action often takes place in the daytime; usually late afternoon or early evening, but daylight nonetheless. The presence of feeding blues is easier to recognize and there is more excitement to the hook-up and battle. When big blues feed in quiet water that is relatively shallow, they behave more like tarpon than bluefish. It is exciting and these fish are often not shy about hitting pencil poppers and swimming plugs. Often that precludes the need for carrying pouches full of leaders and hooks.

The season for following the bunker is a long one. Sometimes things start happening in late August and the action continues on and off well into October. Typically, however, the best action is between the middle of September and the middle of October. Most of the bunker seem to leave the harbors by the end of October, but that doesn't mean that the blues have left the area. No, they're still around, but it will be more likely that you can take them either on plugs in the open Sound, or that they'll take cut bait—day or night.

Thus, in late October, there may be good reason to return to the South Shore where the bunker often linger in the inlets and back-bays well into November. If the weather stays warm bass, blues and bunker may still be around in good numbers after Thanksgiving. If that's so, it is a real plus and extends the season for some lucky anglers.

So, if things get tough, why not follow the bunker this fall.

Following the bunker down to the mouth of an inlet payed off for this angler-and it can pay off for you, too.



VALUE RECEIVED

I am never really surprised when beginning fishermen tell me little knowledge is required to become proficient at the art of sinker bouncing. This attitude seems quite common today, but those of us who have been fishing for any length of time know that somewhere along the line these fellows have failed to do their homework. Should we feel compassion and inform these fishermen that much time and effort are involved before one becomes successful at our bottom fishing game, we may expect one of two reactions—perhaps both. Either they will pooh-pooh our statement as not worthy of their time, or they will look upon us with a jaundiced eye. What, they ask (often with derision), what fishing could be more simple than bait dunking?

Which is certainly true enough...sometimes. But when these fellows are asked how successful they've been, we've touched that sensitive quick, and there is noticeable hemming and hawing while they grope for a suitable reply. But, of course, there is none. Well...they finally and reluctantly admit, no luck yet, but that's only because the fish haven't been biting too well lately.

Sound familiar? Sure. There isn't an experienced fisherman who hasn't met these misinformed fellows at some time. What to do about it? Beats me. You know what s said about a man convinced against his will.

As most of us do, I love fishing and all that goes with it. Those many happy times with good buddies, those exceptional catches, those not so exceptional catches; the cold, the heat, the wet fannies—all those things which go to fulfill the life of truly dedicated fishermen. Even the disappointments, for these, too, teach us something—perhaps negatively, I'll admit, but they do have their value if we will but lift that top layer of disillusionment, peer beneath and ask why.

No matter how long the period of time we have spent dunking bait, no matter how often we go fishing, we learn something new if we use the intelligence the good Lord gave us. But often what we learned may be of no value on our next trip. (And it's a shame, too, for we fishermen put so much faith in that newly acquired bit of knowledge.)

Why this should be is indeed challenging, for often the very next month that bit of new knowledge may unexpectedly save the day for us...if we but put it to use instead of casting it aside. Nature is always in there pitching, trying to tell us something. The sinker bouncer who listens is nobody's fool—he's one smart cookie.

So when fishermen tell me sinker bouncing is easy to learn, that it is simple and there's nothing to it, I come away shaking my head, for my sixty years' involvement with the sport tell me differently.

Sure, there are fellows who find the art of sinker bouncing extremely easy right from the very beginning, but these fishermen are so few and far between, I find them almost nonexistent. In all my years at the bottom fishing game, I've known but one such fellow. That should tell us something.

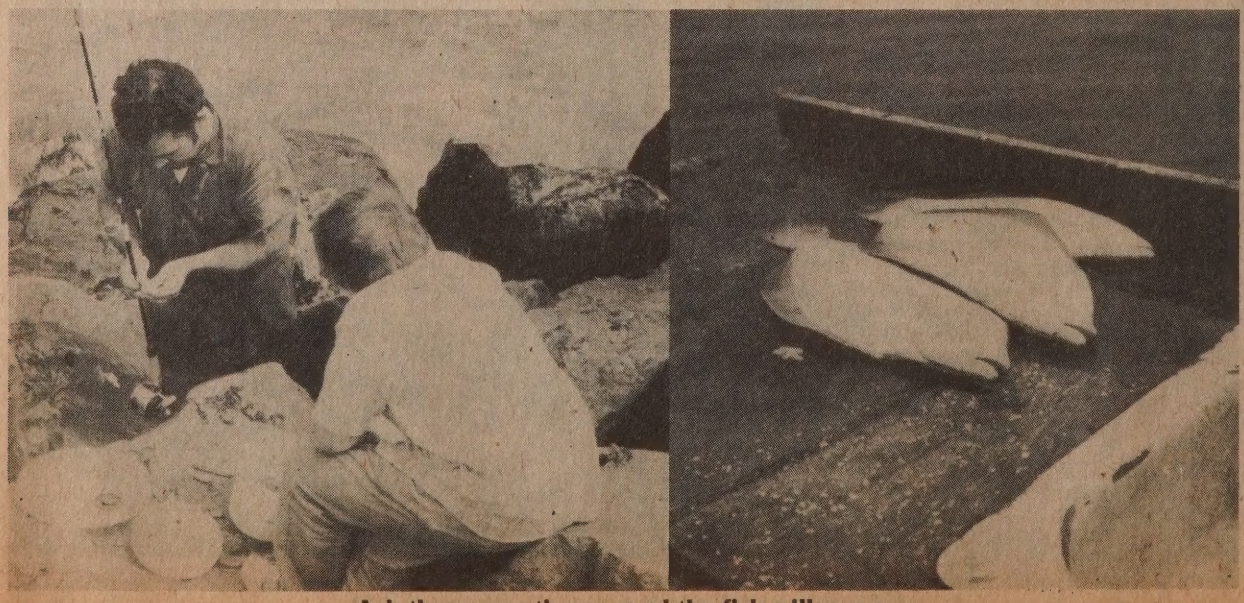
The rewards of fishing are metered solely by the effort put in. One cannot expect to become expert in any line of endeavor without first expending a little industry. And fishing is no exception. A beginning fisherman cannot expect to outfish the fellow with years of experience behind him. Oh, sure, when party boat fishing, the beginner may occasionally win the pool, to the chagrin of the veteran fisherman—but this isn't skill. The fickle fishing gods are notorious for not playing favorites when in a playful mood. But it has been my experience that fishing gods do not often go in for fun and games. Therefore, put no trust in luck.

Those of you who have been reading this column for any length of time know about my fishing buddy Artie Leidecker. For those who don't, let me say that I believe Artie is the best fisherman I know—and I've known many great ones in my time. Artie and I have been fishing together on and off for sixty years. It is a rare day when we fish together that I finish up the fair-haired boy. I manage to hold my own on most of our trips, but when it comes to winter codfishing, I simply cannot out-fish him. Try as I might, I cannot do it.

But one codfishing day some years back, Artie brought along a friend, one Al Dunn. Al had never fished before in his life—but he out-fished us! Now that was a prime example of those playful fishing gods. But Al was a sensible fellow. He knew his excellent results were due only to luck.

Naturally, there's no enthusiasm greater than that which comes with success in one's first attempt to succeed, whether it be fishing or any endeavor which takes a bit of skill. And so it was with Al.

Al decided then and there that fishing was for him,



Ask those questions...and the fish will come.

his only regret being he had gotten off to such a late start. But he didn't rest on his laurels or the results of that first fishing trip. Unlike those fellow discussed earlier, Al plunged into our bottom fishing game with both feet. It mattered not what frustrations came his way during his attempt to learn. He sensibly took it all in stride. Today, Al Dunn is tough competition. This I know, for we often chase flounder and fluke together and I'm never surprised when he out-fishes everyone on board.

Not too long ago, Al and I were discussing this and he made a very astute observation. "You know why, Matt?" I shook my head. "Simple. I put in the time and I got value received."

Value received!

Those two words put everything into the proverbial nutshell. We fishermen simply cannot go out there without preparation. We cannot go out there without some knowledge of the fish we seek. We cannot lower a rig to the bottom and expect to fill our buckets without prior knowledge of basic riggings. It isn't required that we be laden with the learning of a fishery scientist, but we must at least know why this is done and why that is done.

Granted, Al had an excellent tutor in Artie Leidecker, but this is no excuse for today's many lackadaisical fishermen. None whatsoever. Just look about you, look at the wealth of fishing information available to today's sinker bouncer.

Pay a visit to your local library and notice those tightly-packed shelves bulging with fishing information of every description. It is there for the taking. For instance, this magazine you are reading: The Fisherman. Spend a minute and check all the excellent information it contains. There's something for every reader. Can you imagine the hay we fishermen of long ago could have made from the sunshine of this golden opportunity? Oh, brother!

Okay, you say; but the fishing of yesteryear was better than it is today—why shouldn't you fellows have caught all the fish you wanted? True, and I'll grant you your point...but only a certain part of it. In most instances, the fishing was better, but I hope you're not thinking we slew the fish every day; and I certainly hope you don't believe even the rankest novice could go out there and fill his bucket without basic knowledge. Perish the thought!

Then, the fellow lacking basic knowledge of the fishing game always came in a poor second—just as he does today. The fellow who lacks interest, the fellow who treats fishing as just something to do to while away his time, these fellows will always do just that: while away their time with little to show for it.

Fishing is supposed to be an enjoyable sport, and it certainly is that, although my negative approach seems to prove otherwise. But it is only joyless for those who lack the zeal to excel. We fellows who dearly love fishing find no lack of enjoyment in what we undertake to improve our skill. All is grist which comes to our mill.

Therefore, let me say this to our beginning fishermen. Be of good cheer and don't allow an old beat-up fisherman such as me to discourage you in the least. This is not my intention at all. My intention is to discourage you from those who assert fishing takes little or no skill. Those who have fallen by the wayside are likely to inform you of that old saw which claims fishing is nothing more than a jerk at one end of a line waiting for a jerk from the other end. If, after fishing awhile, you find yourself agreeing with these spoil-sports, you have only yourself to blame when the results you desire are not forthcoming.

Rome wasn't built in one day, they tell me, and neither should you expect a full bucket in one day. And should this happen (and it does on occasion), this may not be the blessing it appears to be. Such good fishing for a beginner is likely to make him (or her) overconfident, and to become overconfident in the fishing game is a sure path to discouragement. Remember Al Dunn. The one thing Al wasn't at the conclusion of his first trip was overconfident. He realized his enjoyment of the day was due only to luck—plus the company of an expert fisherman more than willing to show him the error of his ways.

So for the beginning fishermen among us, let me add this. Don't become discouraged. Ever. Nothing worthwhile is ever accomplished without effort. Take advantage of everything pertaining to our sport that you possibly can. Visit that public library. Steep yourself in as much knowledge as you can comfortably put to use. Then when you've digested that—go back for more. Ask questions of experienced fishermen. Many questions. And don't hesitate because you feel those questions sound assinine. They may very well be—many of mine were. But it matters not...it only shows you are in there pitching. Learn to separate the wheat from the chaff. Once you are capable of doing this, you know you're on the right track.

Incidentally, should you have "sticky" bottom fishing questions, don't hesitate to write me at my home: 39 King Street, Hampton Bays, New York 11946. If it is at all possible to do so, I'll gladly help out. That's what I'm here for.

By doing these things you will find your fishing skills increasing. By putting in that extra effort you will find it leads to many full buckets. And those full buckets come only through effort, that very same effort Al Dunn called "time put in."

Truly, this is value received.

Jigging & Trolling BLUEFISH

(Continued from page 15.)

trolling to locate fish. That is, cover the prescribed courses only until you're into fish. Then, break out the other gear.

For me, this means light tackle fishing, unless I'm in the Narrows, where the currents often demand that you fish heavy gear. Elsewhere, you can get away with anything that you may want. I often fish with freshwater trout gear and six pound test line. I find fish breaking and I cast a Hopkins Shorty or a Mepp's all silver #1-2 Spoon. Then, I reel in and leave the rest to the breaking fish. Usually, these are tailor blues in the one to two pound range, but on occasions, I've caught fish of upwards of five pounds. This is really fun on such light tackle. In fact, it's so much fun that recently I purchased a new outfit strictly for this kind of fishing. It's a Graphite seven foot pole put out by Shakespeare in combination with a Ryobi 3000 reel, that has the added feature of having the drag in the bail, packed full of six pound test. This outfit is so sensitive that you can feel the fish sneeze. I truly like it, and I suggest if you're into similar bay sport, you consider such an outfit.

Another method to fish out here is drop your lure all the way down to the bottom and reel up and in. Diamonds and Bananas are used while you're fishing this way and if you're into a lot of fish, they'll be quick to jump on. You can also cast out while doing this, but you must always allow your lure to sink all the way down to the bottom. Then your retrieve will effectively imitate the flight of a frightened sand eel.

Remember when fishing this way to keep your pole's tip pointed directly at the lure. Then once the blue strikes you'll have plenty of room and time to slam your hooks home. This is especially important on light tackle where a lot of bluefish will throw the lure because he'll be able to throw his head back and forth. With a more powerful outfit you could get the fish in without ever once giving him an opportunity to toss his head.

A final method is jigging. There, again, are two types. Type number one is where you cast and bounce bucktail jigs along the bottom. Always add a tail teaser to your lure when fishing like this. Effective teasers are tail-hooked pork rind, squid, or mackerel strips. This combination is good when fishing deep as, let's say, in the Narrows. Use heavier gear and don't fish less than fifteen pound test lines.

While trolling jigs, all you've got to do is get hold of your line and jerk it several feet in towards you. If your pole isn't too flexible, you'll move your lure several feet, too. This gives it a jigging motion that's simply poison on bass and blues. We use this style when trolling near lighthouses and when fishing in and around the Narrows.

Jigging and Trolling
BLUEFISH

by Richard Giessuebel

Bluefish are pretty easy to find in the area surrounding Staten Island. This is because these waters make up the summer residence for many of these fish. Catching them simply becomes a matter of finding them. In order to accomplish this end, fishermen employ the use of such things as fish finders, diving birds, or they troll in areas where populations are known to summer. Once the fish are located, anglers can continue to troll, chum, or jig. In this article, we'll look at some good trolling techniques, good trolling lures, and good trolling tackle that you will require in order to score on this highly cooperative species. Further, we'll discuss jigging and speed squidding, which are two alternatives to trolling that can be used once a sizable school of fish has been located. Important points to be covered will include the areas where the blues take up summer residence, lure requirements for jigging, and compass headings for good trolling patterns.

Let's start off by covering the areas that are most likely to give up some nice fish. Nice, in this case, refers to fish weighing in excess of twelve pounds. There are two main areas that house populations of fish this size. The first is located in the straits between Staten Island and Brooklyn called The Narrows. The other is on the southern end of the Island in the Raritan Bay between the Island and New Jersey. Where The Narrows fish are concerned, trolling or livelining is the ticket. The area fished is from under the Verrazano Narrows Bridge on out to past the Islands of Hoffman and Swinburne. From these islands east to Norton Point and back again to under the bridge. The triangle just established has a total perimeter of about six miles. Fish caught in this area are usually slammers. That means they're very big fish. I've caught them over fifteen pounds here and I've heard of some even bigger fish moving through on occasions; so come prepared. Tides here are very treacherous and you've got to have a shipshape craft if you truly want to be safe while fishing in these narrows; for not only do you have to contend with the very strong currents, but you've also got to be on guard for the ocean liner traffic that exists in the very busy Narrows.

On the other end of the island, currents aren't nearly as bad. There's some boat traffic, but nothing like the Narrows. The points of concern in the south are: Seguine Point just north of Red Bank where the Raritan Bay West Reach Channel bends around in the area called Princess Bay on a heading of 138° to a point three miles east of where you began. Now, swing west at 278° for about four miles to Boundary Light separating New York from New Jersey, and then come on home again on a course of 55° for about another 2.5 miles. Therefore, the perimeter here is about ten miles. This area is also prone to have many gulls working it and, on more mornings than not, your course will be interrupted by chasing these birds that are giving you sure indications of where the fish are.

Other areas giving up good quantities of fish, but not necessarily fish of such quality, are the triangles taking in the Chapel Hill Channel and another encompassing the Romer Shoals.

For Chapel Hill Channel, we usually troll from West Bank Light, on the northern end of the channel, southwest at 250° to Old Orchard Light. This distance is three miles. From Old Orchard, we head off on a southeasterly azimuth of 150° for a distance of three miles to where Chapel Hill Channel begins in the south where it meets Sandy Hook and Terminal Channels. Now, simply swing around to the north at about 3° and ride straight down the middle of the channel back to North Bank Light. Again, the perimeter covered will average ten miles.

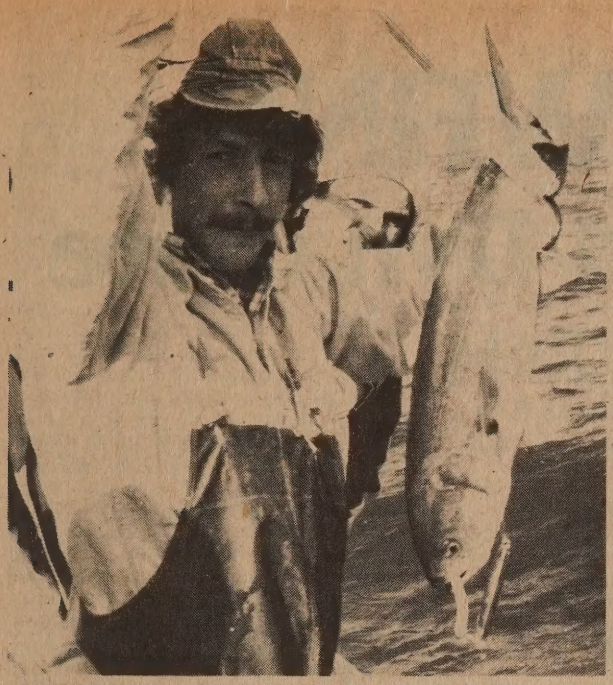
At Romer Shoals, we fish the shoals area tight; that is we move off of Romer Shoals Light at 140° for about 1.5 miles. Then, come about to 039° for another 1.5 miles. Bring it back at 270° and you will have effectively flanked the major shoals area for the entire circle. You will also have crossed Ambrose Channel twice. This area not only gives up blues of every size, but it's also the home of the striper and weakfish. On occasions, you can catch a mixed bag here, with weaks up to twelve pounds and stripers in the thirties.

Well, let's consider these then as the areas in the New York Bight that are most productive. Let us also consider that we like to troll over the said courses and that when we locate fish, we'll either continue to troll, speed squid, or jig in the area where we've found the fish. That is, why continue on the original course if all of a sudden you come upon a sizable body of fish? Stay with the body and pick it apart. Often, the fish will elude you in some direction and you'll then have to pick up where you left off and you can finish a course. However, I've seen days where we've begun a particular pattern never to come close to finishing it because we got into a school of fish that wouldn't quit.

The general depths in the areas all mentioned are in the twenties. The Narrows may be the deepest course, with depths of over a hundred feet, but for the most part, mid-twenties are prevalent here, too. Therefore, we suggest when fishing here to either fish without wire line, no more than seventy-five feet of wire line, or with planers. We also suggest not fishing any deeper than fifteen feet. If you do this, then you'll score well with the blues in the area.

The first trolling strategy to discuss is speed. A lot of fishermen will tell you to fish at a certain number of RPMs. I don't like this suggestion for two reasons. First of all, a lot of guys can't calculate their engine's RPMs. Secondly, if going into a current, the RPMs required are much different than if you were trolling with the current. With this in mind, I like to fish at a speed where my lure works well. What I do is to trail my lure behind the boat so that I can observe its behavior. I adjust the boat's speed to coincide with the maximum wiggle I can get from it. Then, all along the azimuth (one direction away) I keep the boat at this speed. The moment I make a turn along the prescribed course, I reel in the lure and check its wiggle again once going in the new direction. In this manner, I get a constant effective wiggle from my lure, although my RPMs have been effectively altered.

I've mentioned several types of trolling: wire line, no wire and planers. Let's now look at what is meant by this. We'll begin with the wire. With about 75' of wire line strung out behind your boat, you can expect a swimming type lure such as a Rapala to get down about ten feet. Therefore, we fish such a swimming lure about ten feet behind a six ounce trolling sinker, which we attach directly to the end of the wire line. The wire line is usually of about forty pound test. You can also use thirty pound test, and the leader running from the weight to the lure is of forty pound test monofilament. With such an outfit, your lure will work best at a depth of twelve to fifteen feet down. You won't be able to control this depth other than to play out all of you wire until the barrel swivel at its end is just



This gaffed bluefish fell prey to the author's jig. Note the teaser tail as Danny pulls it over the rail.

Roland "Rosey" Hughes jigged this blue while hardly anyone around him had a fish on! Good work, Rosey!

touching the water. Now, you're in business. Keep going forward and the lure will hold its depth. Turn and it will dive, and rev up and the lure will climb. So, if you're in shallow water and you want to turn, then rev up and turn. If you don't you will run the risk of having your lure dive down and foul up on the bottom.

This is especially true if you're running an umbrella rig off behind the boat. At the effective speed, the rig will run lower than the swimming plug. Therefore, turn and it will drop faster too. So, everyone speeds up while turning with one of these expensive rigs behind. Gorilla rigs even settle down deeper in turns and since they're more expensive than umbrella rigs, you know what guys do when turning with these on, too.

Without wire, you'll be trolling with your lure up close to the surface. Add the trolling weight and you can get down five to eight feet. There's nothing wrong with this, especially when you're riding through or along an area of breaking and busting fish. You'll get hits no matter what depth you fish then; however, you'll have more fun pulling them in without the wire line on. This is because, with the wire on, you shouldn't stop the boat to pull the fish in and consequently, you've got a lot of weight pulling against you. The reason you don't stop the boat is to keep tension on your wire line so that kinks don't develop. To fish without wire is heaven, especially when you're used to fishing with it.

Finally, you'll be able to get down deep and fight your fish without forward motion if you use the strategy called planers. With planers, you can fish one of two types: the first is a fixed planner dropped down from the boat to a depth where it'll remain until you change it. What it is, is a piece of wood, like a plywood rectangle, that's pulled through the water pointed down in front. As it is pulled, it dives down deep. Once at the depth you require, it is tied off. Now, clips are attached to the planer and your line is run through these clips and then off the boat on out to your lure. The clips are held in snap-offs. Once a hit is registered, click goes the snap-off, releasing your line and allowing you to fight the fish without any interference of a heavy wire line. This is also the same principle of using a downrigger.

The second type planner is the kind that's attached to your line. It runs off the boat diving down directly from your pole where it precedes your lure by about six feet. You control its depth by how much line you allow out. Also, once you have hooked a fish, the planers collapse and you reel in a fish without any interference from the planner. Of all these contrivances, I prefer to troll with wire. This is because I can best control my depths, turns are easier, and more strikes wind up in the boat.

The lures that are used while trolling are as mentioned: swimming plugs such as the Rebel, Rapala, or the three ounce Danny plug. Single spoons can be trolled, such as the Tony Acetta Pet Spoon, the Bunker or Baby Bunker spoon, or even such small spoons as the Mepp's Striper Killer.

Then, you get into the category of lures that have more than one place to get a hook-up. These include the umbrella and Gorilla rigs. Here you have several tubes trailing behind one another: some tubes with hooks, others without. The fish thinks he's into a school of sand eels and he strikes out. However, he's actually into a lure and should several fish be fooled at the same time, you've got a multiple hook-up.

Other lures that work well in the Raritan Bay complex that we've just described is the Yellow Jacket and other surgical tubes that resemble the sand eel type fish. All of these lures, by the way, are available at J. F. Tackle Shop, located at 101 North New Dorp Plaza. Find John's ad in this magazine and give him a call. He'll tell you what's happening and what the hot lures are.

Another place to stop for bait or to **sell** some of your catch is at the Sportsman's Stop located at 372 Cleveland Avenue, in Great Kills Harbor. The price per pound quotes here are on a daily basis, and you can effectively pay for some of your trip if you stop here.

Well, now let's say that you don't particularly like to fish with trolling gear. Then, here's what to do. Simply use

(Continued on page 13.)

YELLOWFINS
Streamlined Dynamite

by Milt Rosko

Dottie Beyer was straining in the stern of the "D-D", her thirty pound line running straight down into the cobalt blue depths of the Gulf Stream, as she see-sawed back and forth, gaining line and then relinquishing it to what she knew to be a big yellowfin tuna.

Aboard the "Linda June" we made a sweep circle once, and then again.

Our churning white wake erupted! Two flat lines went down simultaneously. Next the starboard teaser of five vinyl squids rigged daisy chain fashion was bombarded by several strikes, literally ripping all five squids from their cable. The final assault came as a yellowfin of forty pounds crashed down on a sixteen inch long vinyl squid intended for a blue marlin.

All this happened quicker than you read about it happening. It took longer to work the fish within gaffing range. I lost mine but my wife, June, and son, Bob, slugged it out with theirs.

Lifting the gaff into Bob's fish I needed two hands and all the strength I could muster to heave his big yellowfin tuna aboard, still full of fury.

Moments later Bob did the gaffing honors for his mom, and brought aboard a twin of his, about forty pounds, both taken on thirty pound class tackle and providing the most exciting action you could ever ask for on the blue water scene.

That day we had over a dozen yellowfin tuna hooked, landed six, plus a couple of dolphin up to thirty pounds, a king mackerel of twenty-two pounds and a couple of small blackfin tuna, and a pair of oceanic bonito, rounding out a most exciting and action packed day.

While our prime target was blue and white marlin, we had neither in our baits that day, but it was really the yellowfin tuna that made the day. While some billfish buffs might be disappointed, our crew aboard the "Linda June" was tickled pink at the prospects of delicious yellowfin for the home freezer and the many fine meals we'd enjoy, but equally important was the fun of catching them. While the billfish are spectacular and give you a good aerial display, the yellowfin gives you sheer power and speed, and deep runs into the air clear water of the Gulf Stream, often boring several hundred feet into the depths on a single run.

Milt Rosko strains to hold a yellowfin tuna hooked and battled by his wife, June. The fish hit a vinyl squid.

That day reminded me of many where yellowfin tuna had made an otherwise uneventful day a huge success. It happened most often when we were searching for billfish, and it

happened with speed and authority for which these fine gamefish are noted. Running southeast of Montauk, and at Hudson Canyon off Jersey, at Argus Banks and Challenger Banks off Bermuda, and both at Walker's Cay and Chub Cay in the Bahamas. Down in the Gulf of Mexico along the edge of the Continental Shelf off Pensacola, and while trolling well offshore of Mexico's Baja peninsula we scored too.

Yellowfins roam the waters of the world, traveling with billfish, dolphin and wahoo, and when you're fishing blue water you just never know when they're going to wallop a bait. The yellowfin tuna travel in schools of the same size fish. If I were to strike a personal average, I'd say forty to fifty pounds would be it, but there have been occasions when we hit smaller fish, those delightful fifteen to twenty-five pounders, and on fewer occasions scored with those pushing the hundred pound mark. Unfortunately, this scribe has never been among those fortunate enough to hook yellowfins topping the hundred pound mark, of which there are quite a few landed each season by sportfishermen.

Back fifteen or twenty years ago it seemed to me that it was only occasionally that you heard about an angler tangling with a yellowfin tuna. But in the last half dozen years, particularly along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts it appears that either the population of the yellowfin tuna has increased, or there just may be more anglers fishing water frequented by them, in the canyons, along the edge of the Continental Shelf and particularly in that stretch of blue water ranging from Montauk to Hatteras, where for the past couple of years the yellowfin almost seems to have replaced the bluefin in abundance.

While most yellowfin are taken trolling, you can enjoy fine results for them while chumming, and also score while drifting baits in blue water, so if these tuna are in an area you have several approaches that you can use to score.

Because the majority of the tuna you'll encounter are under one hundred pounds, this makes them a natural for thirty pound class tackle. Admittedly, when you hook a big one, there will be times when it will nearly clean you out of line.

A good way to rig up terminal tackle with thirty pound class gear is to double several feet of the terminal end using a Spider hitch, and then to tie in a ball bearing swivel with coastlock snap. Next comes eight to ten feet of leader material. Depending on the lures we use, we employ either single strand stainless steel, stainless steel cable, or eighty to one hundred pound test monofilament leader material when chasing down yellowfins.

While many yellowfin tuna are taken on natural baits, during the last couple of years the increased use of big high-speed trolling lures has

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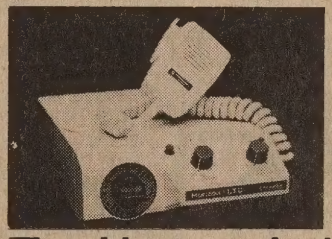

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resulted in many tuna hookups, as the tuna seem to strike lures trolled at fast speeds more readily than those that are trolled at the speeds natural baits are usually trolled for marlin and sailfish, which is usually slow.

One observation favoring the use of artificials is that when a tuna strikes a natural bait it either gets hooked, or the bait is most often mutilated, resulting in the same fish or other fish in the school ignoring it. Not so with artificials. If a fish misses on the first pass, either it or another tuna may be onto it in an instant.

Still, each season will see such reliable baits as balao, mullet and Spanish mackerel accounting for many yellowfin tuna. Quite a number of years ago while fishing at Hudson Canyon, I succeeded in landing many big yellowfins while trolling rigged eels as a skip bait. The eels are extremely durable, and withstand repeated strikes from members of the tuna clan as well as billfish, which makes them a superior natural bait, especially when there are abundance of yellowfin tuna in an area. I've also scored on numerous occasions on a big, ten to fourteen inch long strip of pork rind. The pork will take repeated strikes. Indeed, I've kept pork baits from one season to the next in salt brine, for unless they're attacked by fish such as wahoo or king mackerel that have teeth, they last practically forever if you return the bait to the brine bottle each evening after use.

When rigging these baits, I most always use an 8/0 or 10/0 size forged hook designed expressly for big game. I make it a point to use a file and triangulate each hook point needle sharp, even if the hook is fresh from the box, for penetration is extremely important.

The lures that are making the big news on the offshore circuit are the new plastic and soft vinyl baits. Many don't resembly anything that swims in the ocean, while others are carefully made replicas of fish and squid. The major consideration is that the lures are very durable, withstanding repeated strikes from tuna and billfish. Most of the lures work on or near the surface. I suspect it's their action, usually very erratic and unpredictable, that attracts the fish in the first place, and then excites the fish into striking.

If asked to name a single lure or bait that in 1979 produced more yellowfin tuna for me than any other, it would be the vinyl squid—an exact replica of a real squid. I first began using these squids in 1977 while fishing out of Oregon Inlet, and enjoyed extraordinary results with them. At first I began using them in daisy chain fashion, as teasers, with anywhere from three to five squids strung on a cable leader at eighteen inch intervals. I started raising a lot of fish to them, including marlin, sailfish, wahoo (which literally ate them from the cable), and various species of tuna.

In June of '78, while fishing out of Hatteras, our primary targets were blue and white marlin, and we were using the daisy chain vinyl squids as teasers, but we also fished a single sixteen inch long squid way back, with a smaller twelve inch squid up on a flat line.

We had so many tuna strike the daisy chains that we were almost cleaned out one day, so we decided to rig a hook in the tail squid of a three-squid daisy chain, just to see what would happen. You guessed it: the yellowfin tuna assaulted the end squid, and we got him. We also got several more tuna out of several schools, for when they homed in on our baits and lures the wake came alive with explosions of big, hungry yellowfins.

While natural live baitfishing isn't practiced extensively, fishing with small baitfish in a chum line is the favored technique used to catch hungry yellowfin tuna at Challenger and Argus Banks off Bermuda. Over several years of fishing these beautiful waters off Bermuda, often in the company of Pete Perinchief, the technique of chumming these fine game fish has always intrigued me, and I feel if anglers fishing off coasts where the water depth is moderate, and where they can anchor, this technique could be expanded elsewhere.

Chumming for the yellowfins, and their regular traveling companions, the blackfin tuna, is really very simple. Once anchored, a chum line is established. Most skippers squeeze the small dead fish, causing the juices to ooze from the fry, and then they toss over a handful at a time, permitting the fry to settle into the unbelievably clear water.

Fry measuring three to four inches in length are used as hook baits, with the hook carefully concealed within the bait. Best results are obtained by live-lining the bait, keeping the reel in free spool and permitting the bait to settle with the chum, and once the fish has mouthed it, then locking up and striking the fish.

It's with conditions such as this that several anglers have employed saltwater fly rods and small streamers to coax strikes from the tuna coursing through the chum line.

While catching tuna is great sport, it's surprising how few anglers utilize this excellent table fish. It has a taste not unlike veal cutlet when served hot, and may be prepared in many ways. Many people include small chunks of it in their spaghetti sauce, which is a real treat.

Ah yes, the freezer has enough frozen yellowfin to last until next May, at which time those tuna, with the bright yellow over-extended second dorsal and anal fins should be back at Hatteras, which is where I hope to be. Where else can you find a species that gives you the sheer speed and determination of a yellowfin tuna, and a bonus treat that will last through winter and until next spring!

DOLPHIN-FISH OR MAMMAL

MOST FISHERMEN KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FISH & MAMMAL DOLPHINS, BUT IT DOESN'T STOP THIS OFT-REPEATED QUESTION FROM ARISING - HOW DID THE DOLPHIN FISH GET TO BE CALLED "DOLPHIN" WHEN MAMMALS OF THE SAME NAME ALSO EXISTED?

ONE ANSWER IS THAT THE MISAPPLICATION OF THE NAME *"DOLPHIN"* TO BOTH FISH AND MAMMALS EXISTS *ONLY AMONG ENGLISH SPEAKING PEOPLES*. THE REASON IS ONLY A GUESS.

EARLY EXPLORERS MAY HAVE BEEN CONFUSED BY THE BEHAVIORAL SIMILARITIES - BOTH TEND TO SCHOOL, LEAP OUT OF WATER AND SWIM WITH THEIR HEAD BREAKING THE SURFACE.

THE DOLPHIN-FISH LEAPS 10-20 FT. WHEN HOOKED AND BURSTS INTO WILD 25 MPH RUNS. ITS IRIDESCENT SIDES FLASH WITH SHIMMERING BLUES, GREENS AND GOLD. FISHERMEN TROLL OR CAST FOR DOLPHINS OR "DORADOS" NEAR DRIFTING OBJECTS AND SEAWEED USING SPOONS, FEATHERED JIGS, PLUGS AND CUT FISH BAIT. THEY ARE FINE FOOD.

BULL DOLPHIN

FEMALE DOLPHIN

DOLPHINS RANGE WORLD WIDE IN WARM SEAS... GET TO 6 FT. AND 85 LBS... AND SPAWN EGGS LIKE OTHER FISH.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE DOLPHIN-MAMMAL LEAPS GRACEFULLY LIKE A TOY WHALE AND PUTS ON SHOWS IN SEAQUARIUMS OR WHEN OVERTAKING 18-KNOT SHIPS AT SEA. *"DOLPHIN"* USUALLY APPLIES TO THE BEAKED SPECIES; *"PORPOISE"* TO THE OTHER SMALLER KINDS, BUT THESE NAMES ARE OFTEN INTERCHANGED.

SINCE ANCIENT TIMES MARINERS HAVE CONSIDERED THAT DOLPHINS BRING GOOD LUCK AND ARE FRIENDLY TO TO MAN. THEIR YOUNG ARE BORN ALIVE LIKE YOU AND ME AND OTHER ANIMALS.

COMMON DOLPHINS 6½-8½ FT.

BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN 9-12 FT.

OPEN BOAT TECHNIQUES

by Gerald Hahn

I have a friend who likes to brag about trolling with an outrigger and four pound test for big trout and landlocked salmon in one of New Hampshire's seventy-feet-deep lakes. I told him if he multiplied his line's rating by ten, it would still be insufficient to catch an eight pound blue from an open boat in eastern Long Island. He couldn't believe it. He practices the sport under ideal conditions, fishing from a small craft in relatively calm waters, with little competition and plenty of elbow room. But fishing from an open boat is something else. Space is often limited, tackle requirements are heavy, and the angler's elevation above sea level is much too high. The fact is, open boat fishing is a specialty and every time I board one after a period of fishing from a small skiff, I am amazed at what I fail to remember.

Also known as a head boat or party boat, fishing from an open boat, on the one hand, demands an ultra-sensitive touch with a stout stick and thirty pound test for a mere one pound bottom feeder eighty feet below; and on the other, an ability to maneuver a large, thrashing game fish amidst sixty other lines. Experienced anglers going for monster bluefish, for example, work together like a well-oiled machine. As in a game of musical chairs, they develop a rhythm and move in unison, ducking in front of each other and changing positions to avoid tangled lines in tight quarters. They remind me of urban truck drivers who can handle a monstrous vehicle on a narrow street during rush hour, as if it is nothing but a mere bicycle.

Fishing on crowded boats poses an immediate problem for the beginner, who is more familiar with light spinning gear than with heavy conventional equipment. Most novices are content to free-spool their rigs to the bottom and hope that a backlash does not occur. But a regular can flip his rig out quite a distance with an underhand cast, which brings the bait to the fish first. Moreover, he aims the rod at the rig to speed up that meeting and reduce friction against the guides. You will always find both of his hands pre-occupied with the line: one in front of the reel, the other on the spool, and he knows exactly when the rig touches base—even in a choppy sea. Failing to do these things, the beginner frequently lets out too much line and the result is either a tangle or stripped hook. Some novices counteract this by taking in too much line. When fishing from a pitching, anchored boat, for example, as the boat rises so will the rig, and usually out of the feeding zone of the fish. Conversely, when the boat dips, slack line is created and bottom fish have a feast.

The beginner often holds his rod too high, or worse, when the fishing slows down, he leans it against the rail until it is nearly vertical. On the other hand, the regular holds his rod with the butt higher than the tip. This puts the rod tip between the angler and the fish—instead of the reverse. Hits are easier to detect this way and the hook can be set instantly, as well; for it is easier to strike a fish from the high deck of an open boat when the angle of the rod is obtuse to the line, than when it is acute or perpendicular. A rod held low gives you the leverage to lift it and set a hook. In fact, regulars even keep the rod down when battling a large fish. A blue can suddenly make a run toward you and if the rod is too high, you have nowhere to go. Experienced fishermen also spool line back on the reel while playing the fish. Why bother with that when you have enough to contend with at such a time? If the line is not spooled back properly, it may pile up on one side of the spool. On the next crank of the handle, the tense mono suddenly slips onto the low side of the spool and an avalanche occurs as the mound collapses over it and jams the reel. Then it's bye-bye blue and precious fishing time, as well, as you try to undo the damage.

A regular party boat fisherman keeps cool when the fish are biting. He times the strike at precisely the right moment, depending on the species, and thereafter never rushes it in. With the drag set properly below the line's breaking point, he continues reeling in a big fish, even if the spool misses a turn or two. A fish that suddenly takes line can be slowed better with a thumb on the spool, than by tampering with the drag and forgetting to keep a tight line. If the fish runs to the side, the regular watches other lines carefully and switches places with his neighbor accordingly, to avoid a tangle. The beginner is likely to remain in his spot and soon his line is wedged against others, like a reel with a tightly set drag. The result can be a snapped line at the tangle, a break at the rig, or a lost fish. When the action is intense and lines begin to pop as rigs are lowered—say during a bluefish run—the beginner becomes anxious and drops his rig in frenzied haste, only to lose it. Not the experienced angler, who takes it easy and lowers his slowly. Instead of the fishing line confronting a blue, the baited rig soon comes face-to-face with a chopper feeding at a higher level.

Baiting up properly is more than half the game on open boats. Beginners reason that with so much competition, larger baits will attract more fish. They are right. Overloaded clams on a porgy or codfish rig, oversized bunker on a bluefish rig feed the most fish. A regular spears and twists the firm parts of a clam tightly on the hook shank and leaves just enough of the soft stuff trailing below as a teaser. Beginners pile too many clams on and may only hook each piece once or twice. The fish grabs the excess and with one pull, most of the bait is gone. Moreover, what remains now dangles precariously as well. Similarly, a large bunker hooked in the belly is less likely to catch a blue than a small one hooked near the tail. Bluefish always attack from the rear and inevitably chomp a big bait just behind the hook, leaving you high and dry.

Going a little lighter than the norm, within reason, frequently does the trick for a regular. For example, when fishing over a wreck for a mixed bag, if most people are using thirty pound test with six ounce sinkers, he may try twenty pound test and a four ounce sinker. A smaller sinker is less likely to foul on the bottom and lighter line offers less resistance as the rig is lowered. Furthermore, it is easier to detect a hit with lighter line. However, if fifty pound test is the rule on a crowded boat going for bluefish, the experienced angler knows that thirty pound test may produce more hits, but it will also mean a high loss rate of fish and rigs. In this siutation, he will probably stay closer to the norm.

Finally, there is that frequently debated point on party boats: position. As a general rule, the stern is best, especially the corners. When the boat is anchored, fish come from the stern end first, as they follow the source of the chum up-current. But if the wind is fighting the tide, the bow may be better. On drifting boats, you want to be on the side away from the direction of the drift so that your baited rig does not go under the boat. Sometimes this will be from the stern and other times, from one of the sides. Drifting depends on a number of factors: wind and current direction, as well as the angle of the boat at the start of a drift. Generally, more line is let out when drifting than when anchored.

In some cases, however, fishing from the wrong side of a drifting boat is better than the right side. Once, while fishing for blues on a very slow midsummer day, fifty anglers were drifting small baitfish from the correct side. Some baits were way down, others near the surface—but clearly little was happening. One angler (a regular) put on a metal lure and went to the wrong side of the boat. Because no one was here, he made a variety of casts in different directions and by the end of the day when only eight fish were caught altogether, he had taken half of them. This experienced angler's reasoning was simple and clear. The few fish around were not responding to slowly drifting baits, but would still have to pass under the wrong side of the boat first, as they swam up-current. Matching the bait with his lure and working it well, he contacted the bluefish before the other forty-nine.

The fact is, however, that a regular knows a particular boat and its fishing grounds so well that he can make constant adjustments. Going out on the same boat once a week or more, all season, he knows recent patterns and you can be sure to find him at the best spot for the day—which may be anywhere on the boat. And when it's going to be a stern job (the most popular area), he will arrive early and get a choice spot. He may call the captain or the mates and have them place a rod at his spot. People who find this unfair are usually the ones who board a boat once a year. How early should you come, then? That depends on how badly you want to catch fish. During an intense period of nightly bluefishing at Montauk, for example, some regulars reserve a spot at 2AM for a boat that will not leave until 7PM—seventeen hours later!

As you can see, fishing from an open boat is a fascinating sport with its own rules. Pick a boat and start learning the ropes. You may not get a medal when you graduate from novice to reg, but you will catch more fish.

Freshwater Fishing:
THE BRONZE BRAWLER

(Continued from page 7.)

congregate around springs and a find like this could make your day a success.

Smallmouth bass will readily take many of the lures that largemouths do: crankbaits in brown or crawdad color with a touch of orange underbelly work well in our waters; jig and grub combinations; spinnerbaits; sinking imitation minnow-type plugs such as Rebel or Rapala have been very effective. Single blade spinners like the Mepps and CP Swing take bass regularly—size #2, with or without squirrel tail fits the bill nicely. Topwater plugs will also be effective if used wisely: early and late in the season; early and late in the day. The same holds true for the fly rodder—streamers can be deadly on smallmouth bass. With the warmest days of the year soon to be upon us, I would concentrate on fishing jigs, crankbaits and sinking lures. For those of you who prefer to go natural, earthworms and the old standby—the crawfish—are two staple baits for the smallie.

Regardless of the bait or lure used, remember to concentrate your efforts around surface or sub-surface rocks, sand and gravel bottoms and underwater springs. This is an especially important factor when fishing Long Island waters. The smallie will tend toward variations in the bottom structure. Many of these breaks are identical to those that the largemouths prefer: ledges, depressions, sharp dropoffs, "humps." If found near shallow feeding areas, many of these formations will produce fish that are holding between feeding forays to shallow water.

The smallmouth bass is an exciting game fish. We have a good population of fish right here in our backyards. Give this freshwater resource a try. You'll be glad you did.

MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
COD

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** says that Cox's Ledge is absolutely loaded with cod on both ends and the codfishing there remains absolutely fantastic. Saturday saw Far Rockaway angler Al Kelly catch 32 cod to 40 lbs. Saturday's pool was taken by Slim Miller of Mastic with a 46 lb. cow cod. Sunday's pool for Stan Farrell of Shoreham tipped the scales at 43 lbs. Catches are being made mainly on clam bait, though some fish are being jigged also. Paul says that the fishing is so unbelieveably strong, that one drop was all that was required on Saturday, with fish being pulled all day long. The night bluefishing has been super at Cartwright, all big gorillas. Friday's high hook on porgies was Kim Lee of Yonkers with 101 porgies. Thursday's porgy high hook was Francis Kallock of Phila. with 84 porgies. Porgies were a little slower on the weekend due to unfavorable sea conditions. The fish are mixed sizes. The rips of Montauk are still producing good fluke catches as are the banks of outer Shagwong. On Sunday the boat had 20 hangers in the 6 to 7 lb. range. The skipper ask that you please take note of his special discount offer for 2 consecutive trips. Also please note the **Viking Fleet** ad for the fall Nantucket wreck trip schedule.

Tony Downaritch, Floyd Connfield and Paul Quiales display cod from 42-43 lbs. taken recently aboard the "Viking Starship."

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** called to tell of excellent inshore fishing. Half-day trips are producing catches of 50 to 90 mixed blues, weaks and bonito at the sub buoy, Shagwong and at the Point. Offshore fishing later in the week picked up. Saturday's charter had a festival of shark all around the boat. Loads of blue shark were all tagged and released. Quite a few giant tuna were seen at the Mud Hole. The next three weeks, says Phil, should be prime time for school tuna, bluefin tuna and yellowfin tuna and that he has many open weekdays for the first half of September.

Charterboat **King Wayne** called to report that Saturday's trip for Reelers Fishing Club trolled 75 blues and bonito up to 8 lbs. south of the sub buoy. Saturday night's trip for Boyles Fishing Club from Sound Beach put 125 blues in the sack, fish up to 16 lbs. on herring bait. Action was all south of Block Island. Sunday's trip for Fire Island Lodge No. 636 with Warren Smith and friends bagged up with 172 blues to 18 lbs. all on diamond jigs.

Capt. Jack Passie of the charterboat **Windy** says that the big blow hurt during the latter part of the week but he went over to Block Island Sunday for blues and decked over 1000 lbs. of angry choppers from 8 to 15 lbs. on diamond jigs. Jack also had a 25 and a 26 lb. bass Sunday night fishing Great Eastern on live eels. Another boat in the area had 5 stripers that same night.

Capt. Mike of the charterboat **Montauk** during the week had a charter for Vinnie Foramisano of Yonkers had a very exciting day with 5 mako shark running up to 90 lbs. They also had a 70 lb. white marlin. Saturday's charter fishing up to the NE had 8 blue shark ranging from 50 to 277 lbs. Sunday's charter had 6 blue shark up to 261 lbs. along with a 133 lb. mako. Mike says, the shark fishing gets better every day and a lot of the action is south of the Point.

Capt. Zac of the charterboat **Mako Express** had a charter Sunday for chopper John and pals. They tagged and released 20 blue shark from 2 to

This 187 lb. bluefin tuna was brought to gaff by Richie Ulrich aboard the charterboat 'Adios.'

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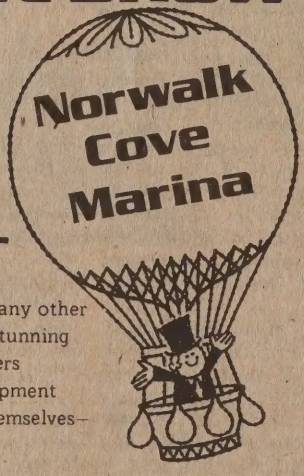

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50 lbs. Also taken were a 55 and 65 lb. mako along with a 45 lb. yellowfin which hit a rigged ballyhoo.

Capt. Joe McBride on the charterboat **My Mate** reports inshore fishing has improved greatly at the sub buoy and Pocketbook Grounds. Offshore fishing has improved with large numbers of blue shark reappearing. Joe still has some openings available. See ad for details.

Capt. Ron Grandinetti of the charterboat **Julie III** called to say that a party lead by Newsday Photographer Paul Bereswill and party worked the midway rips Saturday with diamond jigs and scored with 72 blues and 6 green bonito. Sunday's charter for Gus Delgatto had 42 blues in the same area along with 300 lbs. of porgies caught on the south side.

Captain Gene Kelly of the **Hustler III** reported that last week's northeaster pretty much wiped out fishing during the week. On Sunday's charter, however, a party headed by Jim McCabe took 16 blue sharks and one mako fishing south of Block Island in 35 fathoms. On the return trip, the captain put over wire line and umbrella rigs at Cartwright and in short order put away 18 alligator blues from 12 to 18 lbs.

Captain John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** reported loads of blues at the Sub Buoy on diamond jigs. Friday's charter unloaded 83 of the choppers while both Saturday's morning and afternoon charters also scored heavily with the 5-6 lb. fish.

Henry Colombi reported the results of the 1st annual Start Island Tuna Tournament which ran out of Montauk this past weekend. Copping the award money was Bob Herman aboard the Captain Liver with a 304 lb. bluefin. Third place fish was worth $1500. In second place was Don Chiodal aboard the Miss A-One. Don had a 307 lber. worth $3000. Paul Piscotto aboard the Salmar ran off with the grand prize of $8000 with a 355 lb. bluefin tuna taken on Saturday. The contest went off without a hitch and the prize money was the largest amount ever paid out in any Montauk tournament. To make it even better, winners were paid right there at dockside at the conclusion of the affair. Captain Henry Harris of the Snapshot found a 320 lb. swordfish for Joe Kwaitkoski on Sunday. In addition, Henry said that 6 to 8 makos were brought in by boats at the marina. Very good bluefishing at Cartwright on herring. Plenty of fish for trolling, also at the Point. Both fluking and weakfishing took a down-slide this past week, possibly due to four days of cool, northeast winds.

Diamond jigs accounted for this haul of weaks and blues aboard the charter boat "Montauk." The party was headed by David Goethal of Rochester, N.Y.

SOUTH FORK

★ BEST BET ★

BLUES

SHINNECOCK

From **Speck's Bait and Tackle**, Thom told me that porgies have been holding up nicely at buoys 35 and 32 in Peconic Bay and also inside of Sebonac Inlet. Weakfishing in this area has been a little quiet, with most boatmen concentrating on the porgies. Sixteen-year-old Mike DeMilta checked in a 6 lb. fluke which he took from Shinnecock Bay over the weekend. Thom called the fluking in the bay fair. Anglers who work at it do okay. Plenty of small blues just outside of Shinnecock Inlet being taken by umbrella rig trollers.

The **Capt. Clark II** reports good porgy fishing last week in Peconic Bay. On Wednesday Haywood and Dee Kemash of Bayside had 87 good sized porgies between them. Weekend fishing has been very good. Thursday and Friday the fishing was off due to the high winds. On Saturday roughly 1000 porgies were boated. Sunday's catch was almost as good. Jody Haynes of Hempstead had over 100 porgies himself. Nice size snappers are also being caught along with some blacks now moving in with the porgies on the wrecks. Watch ad for special ocean wreck trip for sea bass in early September.

HAMPTON BAYS

Mickey of **Corrs's Fishing Station** described the fluking as decent. East Channel has been producing fish up to 4 lbs. on both killies and sand eels. Outside of the inlet, small blues being taken in good numbers on trolled umbrella rigs. For porgies, Mickey said that boatmen run into Peconic and fish Robin's Island. Some of the catches he has looked over included fish up to 2 lbs.

John at **Westhampton Marine Supply** says that inshore, size rather than quantity, is the word. Mike Ephorn had 5 fluke up to 5 lbs. fishing

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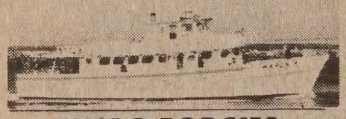

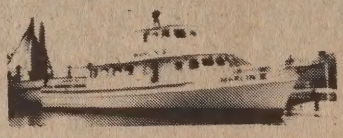

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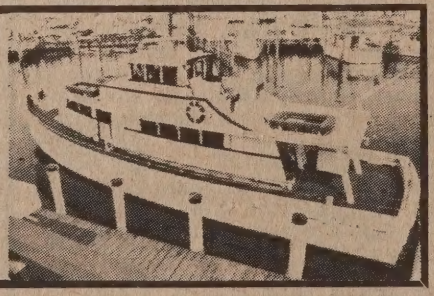

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in the bay. Bay blues have been erratic in the deep water in the eastern part of the bay. Some clammers reported schools of 6 to 8 lb. blues in feeding frenzies. Offshore there are all the blues you want in 80' of water on out. Some mako have been taken at the 140' mark. John Porko, Jeff Scanelli and Paul Finger fishing on the boat Sea Hawk, had a 50 and a 115 lb. mako on rigged squid.

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** reported fluke fishing on the slow side. He suspected the cool windy weather of last week might have had something to do with it. Good flounder fishing continued in the bay with Havens Point, Buoy 39, 29, 43 and 44 all producing good catches of flatties. Lots of crabs in the bay as demonstrated by Fred Mignone, Bill Hagerman and John Auf, who had 1½ bushels in Terrels River Saturday night. Snappers all over and lots of small blues on the inlet bar. Bigger fish in 60' to 80' of water. For offshore fans, a lot of big blue sharks and a couple of makos kept shark anglers busy over the weekend. The Reel Happy Too raised a pair of marlin southeast of Moriches, but could do nothing with them. On Tuesday morning before the nor-easter settled in Bill ran off with a borrowed boat, the HotStuff. Fishing with John Hagerman and a friend, they raised over 20 marlin in 115' of water. Several of the fish were hooked, none however were boated.

Paul at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** called to report some nice catches of porgies and sea bass being made northeast of buoy 42. He called the fluke fishing on the slow side, but said some anglers still managed to do well. Mike Herbert, Winston Wohr and Ed Wong put away 22 of the flatfish fishing from buoys 39 to 41 using combination baits of spearing, sand eels and squid. The most consistent fishing in the area continues to be for flounder with good scores being made

Walter Heitman took 4 weaks, 3 blues, and 3 dz. blueclaw crabs west of buoy 44 in a skiff rented from Seatuck Cove Fishing Station.

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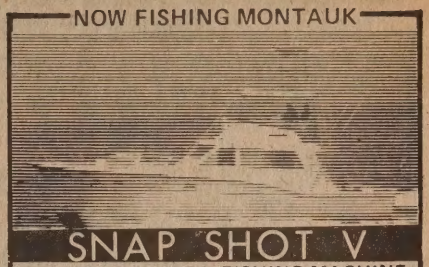
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FLUKE 7:30A.M.
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at buoys 39 and 36 on worms.

John at **Seatuck Cove Fishing Station** in Eastport reported some fluke being taken at buoys 41 and 42. Most are in the 2-3½ lb. range. Plenty of snapper blues in the vicinity of buoy 41 taking squid strips and spearing and good crabbing in the cove. On boat on Saturday took 4 dozen good sized blueclaws in a half-day trip. John added that strong northeast winds made for a tough week.

From the **Hi Way Fishing Station**, Al said that crabs and snappers were so numerous over the weekend that they interfered with the flounder fishing. Nevertheless, one boat on Sunday totaled 105 flounder fishing in the hole south of the station. Friday witnessed excellent flounder action with worms and red dyed clams accounting for the best scores. Al labelled the fluke fishing as only fair.

Romona at **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** reports that the fluking has been good for fish up to 3 lbs. Sandeel/squid combos are the ticket but there are lots of midgets as well as keepers. Best is between Gull Island and buoy 39. Flounders have been best on incoming tide around buoy 36 at Gull Island. Fish are in the deeper holes. One skiff returned with 40 flounder during the week. These fish are ½ pounders and a little bigger and they are fat. There are also some nice sized snappers in the bay.

Al Castellano and Hank Schlanger with a mixed bag of blues, weaks, and fluke taken in the hole N.E. of buoy 42. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz's Fishing Station says the blueclaw crabs are fantastic from buoy 17 to the bridge on rings and in

traps. Snappers are in huge quantities averaging 80 to 150 a day for snapper fanatics, fish going up to 14''. Best has been from buoy 17 to the bridge on spearing and small tin. Sea bass, porgies and trigger fish are being taken in large numbers on squid and clam from 17 to the bridge. Al Burio had 68 blues up to 3 lbs. fishing buoy 21 with poppers and tins on Saturday. Benny DePasquale and crew boated 95 snappers and 25 sea bass at the bridge. Sea bass are running up to 1½ lbs. Ray Parone and family had 160 snappers and 18 sea bass plus 12 trigger fish in the same area. Fluking is spotty and a lot of short fluke have moved in as have a big run of baby weakfish. This is all a great sign for future fishing.

SAYVILLE

From **Young's Fishing Station**, Bob reported weaks in thick about one-half mile out from the station. Fish are spread from Blue Point to West Sayville with quite a few kingfish mixed in. For fluke, best action is found along the Fire Island shore. During the week, Ken Abruzzi, Charlie Shaver, and John Rubino totaled 36 weaks up to 4 lbs. using squid strips and sand worms. They had a couple kingfish as well when they fished one-half mile south of Browns River. On Saturday, Al Morgan and Mario Vallerugo had 20 weaks up to 3 lbs. and a 2½ lb. kingfish, also on squid and sand worms. They fished south of West Sayville. Fishing the same area on Sunday, Dave Crocco and Mike Gardiner also had 20 weaks to 4 lbs. on squid and sands. Plenty of crabs and snappers remain in the area.

OAKDALE

Dave at **J&R Sports Center** reported good weakfishing about one-half mile out from the mainland shore in

Joe and Denise Gruny with a nice fluke taken at Ocean Beach on a squid and sand eel combo. Photo courtesy of Young's Fishing Station.

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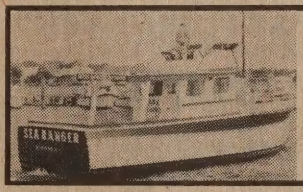

NITE–DAY FISHFINDER & LORAN OCEAN–BAY

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BLUES★BLUES★BLUES

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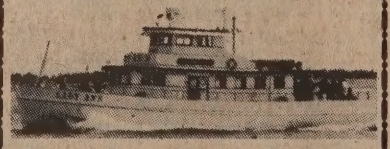
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an area stretching from Oakdale to Sayville. Best scores are made on squid strips or sand worms. One customer returned over the weekend to replenish his bait supply after taking 20 weaks to 4 lbs. in just a few hours. Some big catches of small blues being made in the inlet on trolled umbrella rigs. Most of the fish are in the 2-3 lb. class. Snappers continue very good while Dave described the crabbing as okay.

Peter Jakits aboard his skiff Rainbow Runner ran off 140° to 145' of water Sunday and in less than five hours put away 4 makos, including 2 in the 100 lb. class and one big dusky which was tagged and released. Assisting on the rods were Peter's younger brother Mike who boated two of the makos and Steve Ianella who took a mako and is having it mounted by Fish Unlimited Taxidermy in West Babylon.

BAY SHORE

Linda at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** reported good fluke action from the Lighthouse to the inlet on combo baits. A resurgence in weakfish action with fish to 10 lb. taken at the south end of Snake Hill Channel and at the lighthouse on jelly worms and sand worms. Bluefish chummed at Steamboat Channel and trolled on umbrella rigs from the lighthouse to the inlet. Most are in the 2 to 3 lb. class. Excellent bluefishing on the Patchogue outer banks Friday, Saturday and Sunday. A few tuna seen in 110' of water southeast of the NA buoy and good crabbing and snapper fishing at all the local docks.

Capt Neil of the **Casey Lee** says the fluking has been very good this week with Tuesday probably the best day of the year so far with 184 keeper fluke for 24 customers. Neil says that the Labor Day weekend coming is slated for perfect tide conditions. The boat has been working Sexton and West Islands with sandeels, killies and squid bait. Best is all around the high. Two thirds of the fish are keepers, running up to 5 lbs.

CAPTREE

Captain Marty is proud to announce the arrival of the brand new **Jib VII.** The new ship has been an eyebrown raiser at the boat basin ever since her arrival on Sunday. The 68 footer will be sailing for fluke daily at 7AM and will be on the night bluefish run with departure time slated for 7PM each evening. Captain Marty added that fluke fishing around the inlet has been very good and he expects that it will continue for the next couple of weeks.

Captain Rod of the open boat of the same name reported a pretty good weekend with the fluke with the best action coming on the last of incoming and the first of outgoing water near the inlet and west to the bridge. Killies, spearing and squid combos have all accounted for good scores of

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FLUKE 7AM & 2PM

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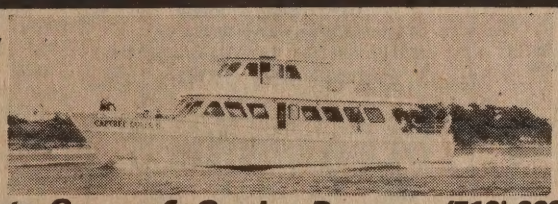
BLUES 7PM

7A.M. MORNING TRIP **2P.M.** ½ DAY TRIP
ALL BAIT & TACKLE FREE
ON FLUKE TRIPS.
FAMILIES WELCOME
INSTRUCTIONS
FOR BEGINNERS



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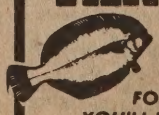

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Josh, Herb, Matt, and Joe display a pool winning chopper caught aboard the Captree open boat "Speedy VI."

the flatfish.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the **Captain Bob Joseph** reported that bedlam has reigned ever since Friday on the Patchogue grounds. Blues from 6 to 15 lbs. in solid right through the weekend with Saturday's trip seeing 40 anglers boat well over 500 of the choppers. Rich Paulsen on Mineola led with the way with a 15 lb. 11 oz. fish. On Sunday's trip, it was another slaughter with the high hook, Bill Gutheil accounting for 37 blues. Highlight of the trip was Charlie's 7-year-old daughter Kathy who stuck to it and eventually brought a 16 lb. chopper over the rail.

Captain Speedy Hubert repeated the description of a mass slaughter off of Patchogue. All the fish you wanted Friday, Saturday and Sunday with a mixture of weaks on Sunday according to the Captain. Hot area is in 75' to 85' of water and everyone on the grounds reported a tremendous body of fish locked into the area. Most expect the fishing to last at least through the month of September and ossibly the remainder of the fall. Some of the hottest fishing last year was during September and October. Jigs continue to be the killer in the daytime while both jigs and bait are doing a job on the fish on the night trips. As for the fluke, Speedy reported very good fishing both morning and afternoon trips on killies and sand eels. Some shorts being taken, but a lot of 2-5 lb. fluke making up the catches. Biggest concentration of fish appears to be near the inlet.

Bill at the **Babylon Fishing Station** reported a good weekend with fluke up to 7½ lbs. taken in Snake Hill and West Channel on killie and squid combos. Plenty of big snappers around but crabbing in the area is on the slow side. Weaks from 1½ to 3 lbs. being taken on squid strips east of the bridge on the Bay Shore flats. The boat Happy Time loaded up with blues and weaks both Saturday and Sunday diamond jigging on the Patchogue grounds. On Sunday, the boat Leighway returned with a 138 lb. mako. Babylon Tuna Club member Bob Hunt also checked in a mako over the weekend.

Margaret at **Charlie's Fishing Station** called the weekend a good one with decent fluking and lots of snappers keeping everyone busy. Best fluking was found in the State Channel by her rental skiffs. Al Windell snuck off to a favorite hile and returned with a bucketful of sea bass and porgies on Sunday, but he would not reveal the location of his catch.

Ralph at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** reported the results of the Babylon Tu Tuna Club interclub contest run this past weekend. First place was taken by Sam Saladino aboard the Angel Jean with a 258 lb. big-eye tuna. Following up Sam were Mike Moe and Leo Sottile. Both scored with big eyes of 125 lbs. Mike fished aboard the All Star and Leo aboard the Misty Helm. Largest bonito taken in the

contest checked in at 9.5 lbs. and was taken by Al Lorenzetti aboard the Skimmer. Ralph spoke of an upturn in the weakfish action and super blues at Patchogue. He called the fluking in recent days "pretty good" with some nice sized fish being taken.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt Scotty** tells of excellent bluefishing Saturday and Sunday, mixed fish from 3 to 16 lbs. This was all jig fishing and it was like shooting fish in a barrel. As soon as you were in the water you were into a fish. George says the nights have been consistely good on bait and all the action is off Patchogue. Most everyone is catching 30 to 40 fish and the skipper says that the catches couldn't be better. Several weaks and bonito mixed in from 7 to 9 lbs. A 50 to 60 lb. tuna was seen jumping just south of the tower on Saturday.

Capt. Bob Patafio of the charter-boat **Yankee III** called to say that the fluking remains good from the mouth of Fl Inlet to the bridge with the inlet being best at the change of tide. Lots of keeper fluke but don't forget to return the midgets. Sunday's trip for the Ocean Rock Pistol Club of Oceanside, had a 6 lb. fluke take the pool. The night bluefishing has been humming and the day trips for blues have been a red hot slaughter on diamond jigs off Patchogue.

Capt. John Bilitskey of the charter-boat **Sea Ranger** says that Saturday was probably the best bluefishing day of the year so far. You could not avoid catching blues, says John. Fares were ready to leave for home by noontime. Action was off Patchogue on jigs. Sunday's bluefishing was almost as good. Blues ran 7 to 20 lbs. and weaks that were mixed in with them ran 10 to 12 lbs.

Charterboat Capt. **Eddie B II** reports that Sunday's bluefishing off Patchogue was fabulous with a catch of over 300 bluefish up to 16 lbs. and 40 weakfish from 7 to 9 lbs. This was

Steve Rimer and Jay and Howard Baker with part of a catch of big blues up to 15 lbs. made aboard the Captree open boat "Captain Scotty."

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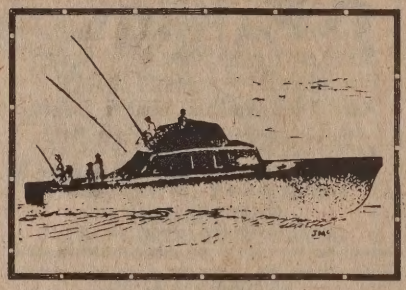

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on jigs for Bob Pariente and Sons.

Capt. Sam Schwarzman of the charterboat **Eleanor** called to report that Saturday's charter for the town of Newfoundland, NJ, a father and son trip, resulted in a big mixed bag of fluke, blows, sea bass, blackfish, sea robins and blues taken at various areas around Fire Island Inlet from the east to the west end. Sunday's charter was a small group for Linda Betts and party. They bagged up on fluke and blues on the last of incoming, fishing around the mouth of the Inlet. The pool fluke was a 6 pounder. Look for next week's super surprize ad.

Capt. Dan Juettner of the **Capt. Joseph Fleet** reports that fluking has slacked off a bit but his passengers have been picking fish to a good degree during the change of tide. Skipper Jim Reynolds reports night bluefishing is very good working 7 miles off Patchogue. Capt. Larry Marshall on the **Capt Joseph** still working on the fluke reports the pick is fair with best results around the change of tide around the mouth of the inlet on sandeels and squid.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** tells us that the night blues have been excellent at the Patchogue Grounds all week, catches ranging from 200 to 500 blues every night anywhere from 3 to 14 lbs. It's mostly bait fishing at night but when the fish are thick they are hitting jigs also. Friday and Saturday nights were among the best 2 nights of the year, says the skipper. Scatterings of weakfish were mixed in on Saturday night. The daytime fluke trips have remained excellent the last few weeks for the boat, working from the white house west to the mouth of the Inlet. The fish are running from 1 to 3 lbs. and seem to be moving in a westerly direction. They are hitting on all tides, with the flood being best. They are also getting a scattering of 1 lb. harbor blues every day on the fluke rigs.

Capt. Roy Mazziotta on the charterboat **Blue Albatross II** says that the bluefishing has become hot again. Catches were very good for Thursday's group. Saturday night's charter for John Lombardi and group loaded up fishing off Patchogue. Pool winner with a 14 lb. blue was Ted Batista of the Bronx. Saturday's fluke trip saw very good catches of all keeper fish up to 3 lbs., working the Inlet. Sunday's charter for Walter Brandt of Holbrook and son Russell, to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah, enjoyed a leap job on the blues, all on jigs. Some weakfish hav been mixed in the 6 to 10 lb. class. Day and night bluefish has become fantastic and the boats are returning early with arm weary fishermen.

Charterboat **Lady Ann** tells of excellent fluking from the Inlet to West Channel, best catches 2 hours on either side of the high tide on sandeels, squid and spearing. Fish are running up to 3 lbs. Bluefish charters have been enjoying total slaughters on the weekend's day and

night trips. All of the boats are getting in on the action and it's an all day leap job off Patchogue. Some weakfish are mixed in with the blues. It's jig fishing days, bait at night and a tremendous body of mixed choppers of 15 lbs. have moved in.

Capt Dennis Frederick of the charterboat **Flying Dutchman** called to say that Saturday's trip for Bill Meskin and group fished 3 miles NE of the NA scoring on blues with diamond jigs in the morning and bait in the afternoon, fish running 5 to 7 lbs. Sunday's charter off Patchogue for Bruce Phimister of Newburg NY had over 200 blues on diamond jigs. These were 8 to 12 lb. monsters with a few 15 pounders mixed in.

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SNAPPERS

SEAFORD

Lon reported from **Wanser's Tackle Shop** that fluke are still around but have slacked off. Good flounder fishing in any of the deep water spots such as Zachs Bay and near the Meadowbrook and Wantagh bridges. Snappers have reached their peak both in size and quantity, but crabbing has not been too good, according to Lon. Weakfish at night near the bridges on sand worms and live snappers. Bluefishing has been hot and cold although boats running east to Patchogue had super fishing Friday, Saturday and Sunday. A surprise showing of school bass from shorts to 18" from the Meadowbrook bridge to the inlet. One umbrella rig troller who requested anonymity kept 20 out of 35 schoolies trolled near the bridge last week.

Pop's Fishing Station reports very good action locally with fluke, snappers, small blues and sea bass being caught. Crabbing has been very good. Mello Porcelli was out over the weekend and came back with a bushel and a half of crabs, largest 7½" across the body. Fluke have been averaging 5 keepers per boat with the best areas being Four Corners and the 3rd Wantagh Bridge area on killies and squid. Snappers are all over the place.

BELLMORE

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** informs us that stripers are being caught in the bay on live eels or on live bunker. Best action has been in the late afternoon and evening. Franky the Flea bagged a 30 pounder. A 43 pounder and several 30 lb. stripers were also caught during the week in

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the Bellmore-Merrick Bay complex and also in Jone's Inlet, Slup Channel and the Feeder Creeks. Some weakfish have been taken around the bridge areas on snappers. On Saturday flounders from ¾ to 1 lb. were taken at the Jone's Beach pier area on sandworms and clam chum. Small blackfish are being caught at the bridges on fiddlers and green crab and Scott himself, singlehandedly hooked and landed 35 sea robins at the Bent Pole in Merrick Bay on Thursday. Way to go Scott.

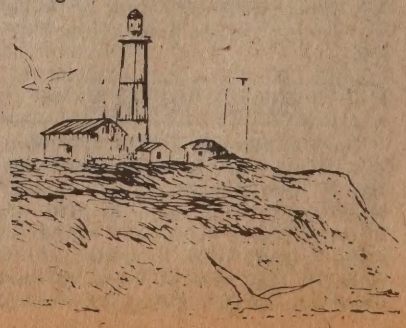
MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports lots of snappers all over the bay now running up to 2 lbs. A few weakfish are being caught in the evenings at the Meadowbrook Bridge on live snappers. Bass sharpie Dennis Newman during 4 days of fishing this past week scored with 7 stripers: 43½ lbs., 41 lbs., 4 fish in the 30s and a 29 pounder. This was all on live bunker at Haunt's Creek, Sloop Channel and at the bridge in the early mornings around the high tide. Local fluking has been picky though decent catches were made this past week in Rowboat Alley, Merrick Point and Funday. A few flounder have been boated in Swift Creek. Lisa Miller, budding anglerette, hooked and landed a keeper fluke off the dock at **Nick's Fishing Station** on Sunday.

Dick Rubin called to tell us that he and a group from ITT Courier fished aboard the charterboat **Atlantic** on Saturday and bagged 350 blues for the group, fish up to 16 lbs. on diamond jigs with green tubes fishing off Patchogue. Dick said that on Sunday he took a group from East Bay Anglers on his boat El Piscador and they hammered 65 more blues up to 14 lbs. in the same area.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station reports that Mike Sullivan and crew on Sunday loaded up with albies and bonito up to 10 lbs. in 135' of water 140 degrees out of Jone's. This was on umbrellas. Blueclaw crabs continue to be very good in Middle Bay. A fair number of keeper fluke are still being taken in Baldwin and Middle Bays with a lot of midgets mixed in. Snappers are getting bigger and there are plenty of them. A few flounder in Swift Creek and at the Meadowbrook Bridge on worms.



WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
BLUES

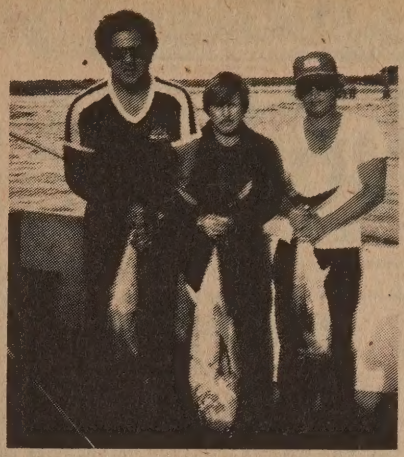
FREEPORT

Bob at **Hook Line and Sinker** reported some good flounder scores being made in Swift Creek on worms. Fluke fishing okay at the inlet, not many but nice size. Biggest weighed in during the week was a 6½ lber. Bluefishing is on and off, with some 6 to 8 lbers. taken at Cholera over the weekend. Spotty weakfish action on Tiger Tails at the Tin Can Grounds and the Wantagh bridge. Snappers all over the place according to Bob.

The **Starstream II** reports a super bluefish weekend. Saturday fish ran from 4 to 17 lbs. Al Cordero of Ozone Park put 28 blues in his bucket. Sylvan Bushelle and pal Hal Weeks of Springfield Gardens, had 45 choppers between them. Massapequa angler Spiro Gerogiades accounted for 24 blues. The pool winner with a 17 lb. blue was Kenny Lame of Hollis. Sunday's trip saw 8 big weakfish biten in half on the way up by giant blues. Fifteen whole weakfish were landed. Bluefishing was frantic. High hook Sunday was 43 blues for Fernando Bento of Franklin Square. There was also a good showing of weaks Sunday. This is all jig fishing. Night trips have been excellent too. Saturday night Bill Maffor of Long Beach had 30 blues. The boat had 600 fish that night, all on bait. Capt. Richie says Friday night's trip was good also and that they read fish from the bottom up to 60'. Forty fish for an angler that puts his mind to it is no big trip. Sinker rigs fished on the bottom at night does the job and the boat is fishing east SE of the Inlet.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** reports this weekend saw the best bluefishing of the season with the boats working SE of the Inlet for choppers up to 16 lbs. Two and a half hours of fishing has generally been plenty for fares that are too pooped to pop after that period of time tied into these murderous fish. Action is continuous and fast. High hook for the week was Stan of Manufacturers Hanover with 27 blues taken on A 47s and a fast retrieve reel. John McDonald of College Point was the pool winner of the week with a 16 lb. blue. Day trips were run by Capt. Sy and Capt. Tony. Night trips were run by Capt. Charlie and Capt. Ed. The night trips did extremely well also on the weekend fishing to the SE on bait and chum. Capt. Sy Karlin will be running a cod wreck trip Sept. 17th leaving at 4 a.m. This is a limited capacity trip and reservations are required. See ad for details.

The **Capt. Bill** picked away a keeper fluke this week and for the slowness of the area still managed to put 45 keepers on the boat for the 2 half-day trips Sunday. Sea conditions caused the bottom to be roiled up and put the fish in a lockjaw position. However by this weekend the picture may change as every day is a brand new ballgame. Bill says that he will probably be switching over to flounder in a week or two.



These three yellowfin tuna from 35 to 65 lbs. were landed by John O'Connell, Keith Hopler, and Glenn Hopler, aboard Captain Joe Long's "Nite Owl."

Charterboat **Ivory Queen** called to say that Wednesday's charter for Tom Loriol of Lindenhurst, had 12 skipjack and a 30" mako which was tagged and released and there were also 2 makos in the slick. Saturday's trip for Ken Gobright of Bellmore and party had 12 skippies and a 40 lb. yellowfin tuna taken on a Green Machine. Danny Marks of Lindenhurst was on the rod. Bob Phipps of Jackson Heights was high hook. They worked around the NOAH buoy. Sunday's charter for Mike Mattei of Brooklyn had 29 skippies and a 15 lb. bluefish tuna. The tuna were caught, both days on Green Machines.

Charterboat **Sea Bee** called to tell

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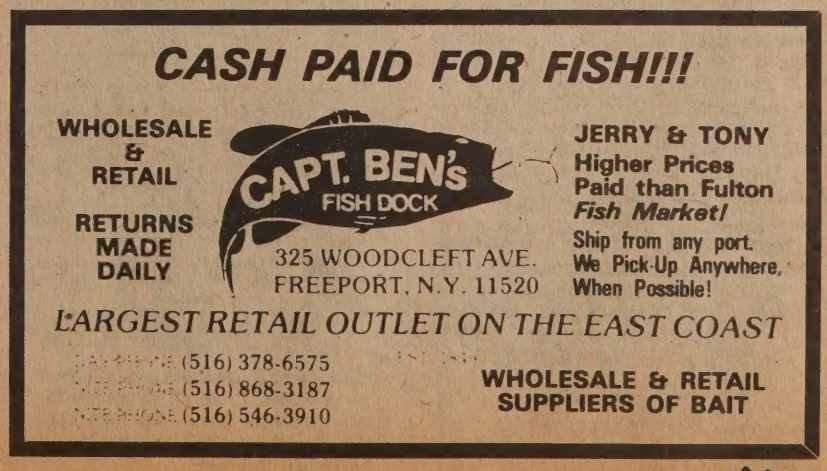
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us that the weekend trip for Fred Smarrito and father along with Uncle Tony Ferrari of Yonkers, bagged a 240 lb. tiger shark and 25 bonito in 170' of water fishing SE of Jone's Inlet.

The **Capt. Lou III** will now be switching over the flounders on both the full day boat and also on the **Capt. Lou IV**, which is sailing 2 half day trips daily.

Charterboat **Nan Sea** called to say that Sunday's charter for Ronnie and party of Freeport fished 150' of water 150 degrees out of Jones and had 20 skippies and 1 bluefin tuna.

The **Capt. Al** reports that up to the big wind storm that kicked up last week, bluefishing had been very good fishing in closeby areas west of Jone's Inlet. While Saturday was a little picky, good catches were made again on Sunday on blues from 4 to 15 lbs. This has been all jig fishing during the day. Night bluefishing trips with Saturday night in particulary, have been very good, with the settling down of the seas and the boat fished bait and chum at 17 Fathoms Saturday night scoring well.

POINT LOOKOUT

Eddie told us from **Ed's Fishing Station** snappers, sea bass and small porgies are being taken in Reynolds Channel from buoys 17 to 20. Fluke around the flats and in the channel with plenty of shorts still making up the catches. Warren Ganda and a friend returned to the station on Saturday with 12 nice fluke taken on the flats with sand eel and squid combos. Bill Loughlin had a 4½ lb. fluke during the week.

Capt. Dennis of the charterboat **Marie III** reports that Thursday's trip for Dr. Beir and group of doctors and nurses from Cedarhurst Medical Center, fluked to the east off Tobay in the State Channel and averaged 4 to 6 keepers a man. There was a 90 percent keeper rate and the pool fish went 6 lbs. Fish averaged 15 to 18''. Nurse Laura was high hook with 8 fluke and outgoing tide was best. Friday's trip for Joe Laprino and party, drifted from Tobay to Gilgo, same tide, same bait and pretty much the same results. Friday saw a 75 percent keeper ratio. Smelts and squid were the hook bait. Saturday's trip due to rough sea conditions came back inside and scored with a fair shot on fluke hitting many spots and picking a couple of fish in each area. This was roughly a 50 percent keeper ratio. Sunday's trip for Frank Lamotte and group from Cente Fishing Club worked east of the Inlet for blues on jigs up to 12 lbs. Catches ran from 2 to 12 fish a man. A few 4 to 6 lb. weaks were mixed in. The skipper said that those who worked the hardest caught the most fish.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie of **Beckman's Tackle Shop** reported very good fluke fishing for large fish anywhere from Playland to Ambrose. Big combo baits of squid and large spearing or smelt have been accounting for the best scores. In Reynolds Channel, boatmen struggle to get a decent catch of the flatfish. Still a high throwback ratio in this area. Snappers, on the other hand, large and plentiful and a decent number of crabs around.

This 44 lb. cow bass was decked by Bill Perlman of Oceanside, second from left. The fish was weighed at Ed's Fishing Station in Point Lookout.

LONG BEACH

From the **Long Beach Sports Marina** Frank said fluking has not been too good in recent days. Larry Feldman took one of the marina's rental boats east to the patchogue grounds and returned laden down with four or five boxes of bluefish taken on diamond jigs. Bill Chisholm and Christy Farrell, both on vacation here from Scotland were hosted by Frank one day last week. The trio found a school of albacore at buoy 4, but could do nothing with the speedsters. Moving on to the Three Sisters wreck, Bill and Christy were kept busy by a fair sized body of bluefish.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Chris Burtis aboard Ben Burtis' Lost Weekend over the weekend, reported a catch of 5 yellowfin tuna from 45 to 113 lbs., as well as a few big-eye tuna in the 35 to 45 lb. range. On the return trip from the Canyon the crew crossed paths with a great white estimated to be 24' long. Chris had a bird's eye view of the big shark from the tower of the Lost Weekend and was certain of the huge fish's identify.

Capt. Ronnie Lepper of the charterboat **Kim** tells us that the blues slowed down a little around the NY Bight but picked up around Cholera and 17. These were big fish in the 10 to 15 lb. class. Best results were on trolled small bunker spoons. Boats that chummed and baited did even better. Sharking has remained very slow out of the NY Bight. Offshore trolling has picked up with skippies showing well and also a few bluefin tuna being caught. Tom Crilly on his boat Striper trolled 6 bluefin tuna to 30 lbs. at the NOAH buoy. There has also been some good canyon action.

Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing station** knew of weakfish trolled at the Tin Can Grounds this past weekend. Rudy and Robert Willilams anchored just east of the Atlantic Beach Bridge and put away 60 nice flounder. Bluefishing and fluking in the area this week took a downturn, possibly due to last week's strong northeasterly winds. For the offshore set, 14-year-old Jay York fishing aboard the Four Queens, put away a big-eye tuna of 246 lbs. out at the Canyon.

JAMAICA BAY

Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** said sand porgies, snappers and fluke are in good supply in the area. Crabbing pretty good also. Dan Dvoroznak and Randy Lacko checked in a catch of 10 fluke up to 6 lbs. along with a few bay blues which they took drifting under the Marine Parkway bridge one day last week.

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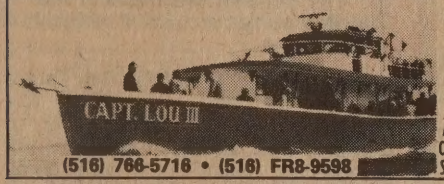
CAPT. LOU III



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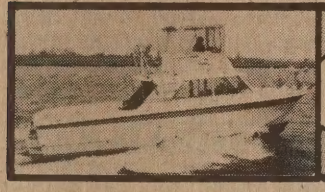

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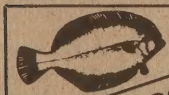

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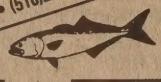

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The Bob Calicutt party with 400 lbs. of big blues taken on the "Kim." Catch was made at the N.B. buoy on S&G Mini-umbrellas.

Canarsie Sports and Fishing Tackle reports that the picture off the Canarsie Pier is mostly lots of snappers from smalls to mediums but in quantity. Some fluke are being caught also with a good proportion of keepers. Some larger fluke being taken from the boats. There are also a few sand porgies being caught. A few flounder also being taken on worms.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Butch of the **Zephyr** reported that fluke fishing was slow up until Saturday because of high winds and heavy storms of last week. On Sunday an improvement was found fishing at the Tin Can Grounds and outside local channels. Most fish ranged around the 2½ to 3 lb. mark with the pool fish tipping the scales at 8½ lbs. Catches ran from 2 to 14 fish per person. Fish were taken on squid, sand eels and spearing. The Captain said that the fresh bait he had on board made the big difference, his fares outcatching most of the boats around using frozen bait.

Capt. Tom on the **Elsie K III** says that the fluking slowed over the weekend due to the ground swell caused by last week's big wind storm, but things picked up again Sunday afternoon. The fish are there and the prospects of big catches for the weekend are excellent.

Mike's Tackle Shop, Charlie spoke of lots of fluke and sea bass along the Coney Island flats and along Ambrose. Most of the fluke are the finest kind and have been taking large combo baits. Big blackfish being taken on the wrecks and super bluefish action for the boats that ran east to Patchogue and also 17 Fathoms Friday through Sunday.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny of **Santos Sport Shop** spoke of good crabbing in Lemon Creek and also in many sectors of Great Kills Harbor. Weakfish in Great Kills Harbor, at buoy 5 and blues and weaks in an area stretching from old Orchard light to buoy 12 and on to buoy 20. Blues run 3-5 lbs. and 10 and

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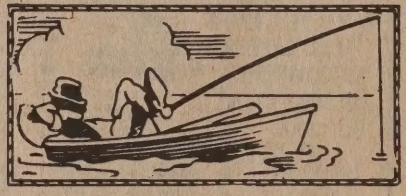
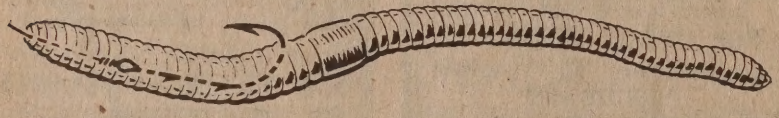
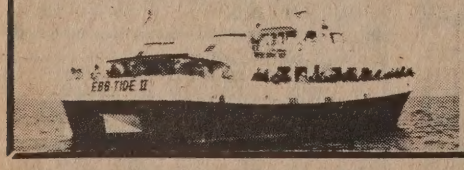




★CITY ISLAND★



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over, while most of the weaks are in the 6-8 lb. range. Fish are being taken on both bait and trolled tubes. Good fluke fishing in the vicinity of Hoffman and Swinburne Islands and a few bass for worm trollers in the same locale.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

GREENPORT

Capt Rich Jensen of the charter boat **Nancy Ann** says that the blues are in solid at Peconic Point, Pidgeon Rip and the Race. Last week's strong winds pushed them in. His charters have been getting over a hundred blues per trip all on diamond jigs, fish in the 5 to 6 lb. range. Stripers of 27 and 38 lbs. were trolled up in the early morning hours on white bucktail during the week. Saturday's charter for porgies was super and in 3 hours the boat loaded up. The boat is fishing in the Sound on a couple of pet wrecks around Horton's Point.

Capt. Dave Brennan of the **Peconic Star** reports good porgy fishing continues on a steady basis, with any sort of decent weather. Fares are taking buckets full of mixed sizes mainly mediums. The boat is fishing relatively close areas.

Capt. Roddy DeLisle of the charter boat **Prowler II** called to say that Saturday's charter for James Flaherty girlfriend Caren and two pals, all of the Bronx, loaded up with porgies and 15 bluefish up to 9 lbs. which they took at the Race on jigs. The porgies were caught east of Gardiner's. Sunday's party of Abe Mendelson, Babylon, had a load of porgies taken east of Gardiner's and a good catch of fluke caught off the Ruins. Outgoing tide was best for the fluke which hit sandeel/squid combos. Porgies were best all around the high and they also had a half dozen nice blackfish. Roddy says the fishing was great this week and you had your choice.

A.P. White Bait Shop says that Pidgeon Rip and the Race have been having very good catches of blues with Plum Island producing very well also, mainly for those working diamond jigs. Saturday saw probably the best porgy fishing of the year. Art says the fluke are still hanging in at the Ruins off Gardiner's on sandeel and squid. Blackfish are picking up at the Orient Point rocks on fiddlers and green crab.

SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** tells us that the bay is full of sand

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BRAND X
8A.M. DAILY
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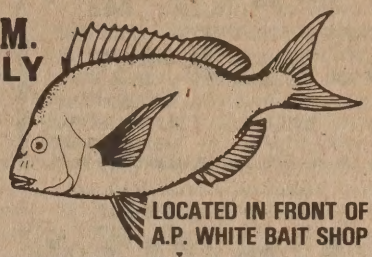
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porgies with excellent catches at South Ferry, buoys 16, 17 and 18. Noyac Bay is full of small snappers which are hitting shiners and small tins. Best area for weakfish from 2 to 2½ lbs. has been buoy 16 and Rose's Grove on squid and worms. Best porgy fishing has been at Orient Station in the Sound with fish going 1 to 2 lbs. Very good catches are being made directly in front of the station and at Petty's Bight. Flounders are still being caught just east of the traps at Orient with sand worms working best, flatties from ¾ to 1½ lbs. Blacks at the Lighthouse and Mulford Point in quantities averaging 2 lbs. but going up to 7 lbs. Some fluke at Orient Shoals, Truman Beach, Petty's Bight and in front of the station. Blues off Orient Shoals on diamond jigs and also from Gardiner's to the area SW of Plum Island. Generally speaking very good bluefishing in most parts of eastern LI Sound with large weakfish mixed in on jigs.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt Marty's Fishing Station talks of excellent catches of weaks and porgies on Sunday. Heavy porgy catches around buoy 25 and buoy 4 on the west side of Robin's Island. Boats came back with anywhere from 2 to 5 gallon buckets full of porgies and weaks. Porgies ran from ½ to 2 lbs. at buoy 1, Nassau Point, on the west side. Weaks ran up to 4 lbs. Skiffs had anywhere from 7 to 20 weakfish. Best catches at buoy 1 which is west of Nassau Point and also between Nassau Point and Rose's Grove. Both tides produced with worm and clam for the porgies, squid on a hi/lo rig for the weakfish.

Capt. Jim's Fishing Station reports catches of 1 to 3½ lb. weakfish hitting squid on hi/lo rigs on both sides of the high, best between buoy 22 and Rose's Grove. Big porgies on the west side of Robin's Island in quantity hitting sand worms on both tides.

John Heckerman of Queens with an outstanding catch of summer run weaks made at Rose's Grove on squid strips. Photo courtesy of Captain Marty's Fishing Station.

NOYAC

Noyac Fishing Station called to say that on Saturday John Oecdalin and son fished Noyac Bay around buoy 17 and had a few weakfish up to 7 lbs. They returned Sunday with a few more family members and some Bay Shore friends and got another 9 weakfish from 3 to 6 lbs. They also had some nice porgies and one kingfish. This was all off Long Beach on squid for the weaks and clam for the porgies.

SAG HARBOR

Capt. Bob of the charter boat **Sundance II** reports that he's been getting stripers and blues with some weaks mixed in on every charter. His people had some big cow bass on the last moon. He's been doing all of his catching on original Danny plugs, all colors. He's been fishing the Gardiner's Bay area on both day and night trips. His bass have been up to 37 lbs. Blues and weaks have been hitting tubes. Sunday's charter had 2 blue shark to 150 lbs., a brown shark of 100 lbs. and a 202 lb. mako. They also dropped an estimated 100 lb. mako. The skipper says that the boat has now scored with 310 striped bass so far this season.

Capt. Artie Latch of the **Wilhelric** tells us that on Monday Bill Jones of Brooklyn was porgy high hook with 81 fish. Tuesday and Wednesday's fluking was slow due to weather. The fluke are there however, but the drifting in 25 m.p.h. NE winds was impossible. Thursday in the high winds, Stan Holder boated 62 porgies. Friday and Saturday the porgies slowed down. However Sunday bounced back and there were many overflowing buckets on the boat.

NORTH SHORE
MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

ROCKY POINT

Stan at the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** reported a good showing of blues in the 6-8 lb. class and a few weaks inshore of buoy 9 on Saturday. On Sunday, 1-2 lb. choppers were found off of the pink house inshore of buoy 11, along with a decent body of fluke. Trolled red tubes and jig and tube combos took the blues in both areas. A sprinkling of bass near Wading River last week with rumors rife of a 51 lber. being taken. Porgies all over the place but small according to Stan. Anything a pound or better is a big one. Worms work best for these fish.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Bob at **Fisherman's Haven** reports that there are still plenty of blues from Port Jeff to Shoreham running up to 15 lbs. These fish are being trolled and jigged and they are also rising to small blue poppers at Cedar Beach and Miller Place. Action has been steady all day long. Weaks are being caught off Mt. Misery Point at night on drifted sand worms or jelly worms. Big porgies have been caught this week off Miller Place and Old Field Point in about 50' of water. Buoy 7 off Shoreham has produced some fluke while a 5 lb. striper took a live eel off the Crane's Neck Beach around the rocks. Stripers of 51 lbs. and 15 lbs. were taken by one secretive angler during the week by casting big swimming plugs from a small boat tossed into the beach around the Mt. Sinai area.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports good action this week. Loads of blues in the 5 to 6 lb. range being taken close in on diamond jigs, trolled tubes and umbrellas. Very good fluking off Mt. Sinai Harbor. Ralph weighed in a 6 lb. fluke for Jerry Russo of Coram on Saturday, the fish hitting drifted squid and shiner combos. Lots of keepers says Ralph. Porgies are being caught in the rocky areas of Miller Place and Rocky Point. Loads of small snappers all over the place.

KINGS PARK

O.K. Bait & Tackle reports that bluefish are a good item in the Kings Park area. "Bruno" had a 146 lbs. of blues in the 6 to 7 lb. range and 2 bonito on surface plugs.

HUNTINGTON

The **Ever Ready** reports that all of the 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. runs throughout the week have been producing blues. Best was Saturday's 5 a.m. trip when between 300 to 400 bluefish were decked. Albert Mezo of Mt. Vernon NY had 30 fish. Sunday afternoon's trip saw plenty of action with Pete Dezlin landing 6 blues. Most bottom runs saw weakfish grabbing the pools. On Tuesday's trip John Collins had an 8¾ lb. fluke which grabbed the bait at buoy 13 at Eaton's Neck. An 11 lb. and a 13 lb. fluke were also

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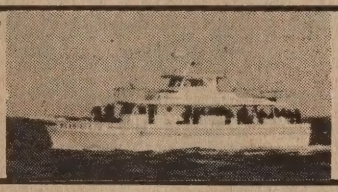

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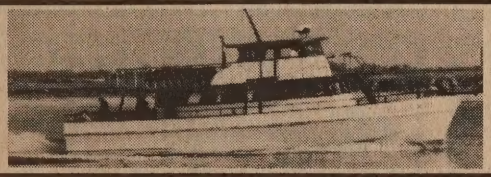

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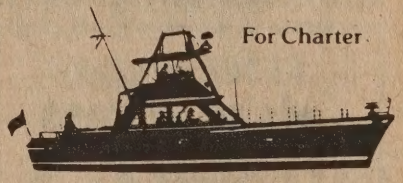

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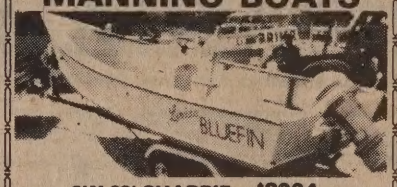

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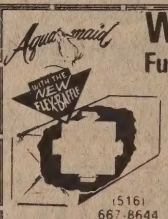

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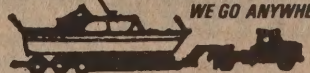

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caught in this area by private boats, with these fish being weighed in at **Four Winds Bait & Tackle**. On Tuesday evening Bill Mulhern decked 4 weaks to 13 lbs. On Sunday a 13 yr. old lad won the $38 pool. See ad for up to date sailing schedule.

Ronnie of **Ronnie's Bait and Tackle** said that blues are now in solid in the area. For example, on Friday evening Lou Pascione, Rocco Auriliano and Mark Ranaldo put away 97 choppers on diamond jigs and umbrella rigs fishing in the vicinity of the obstruction buoy. On Saturday, Art Berlin racked up a score of 20 blues and a 4½ lb. bonito fishing northeast of the Lilco platform. Joe St. Pierre stumbled across some big blues herding bunker in Huntington inlet. He used snagged bunker to take a pair of 16 lb. choppers. John Munno worm trolled 5 school bass Sunday night at Marshall Field. Good porgy fishing at Eatons Neck and Marshall Field and fantastic snapper fishing throughout the harbor.

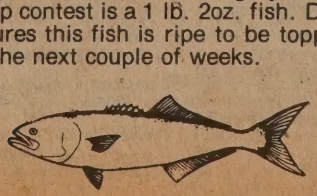
NORTHPORT

Tom of **Bowman's Sporting Goods** weighed in a 5½ lb. bonito on Saturday. It was taken by Bill Cunningham at buoy 13. Bill also had 60 porgies up to 2½ lbs. in the same area. Tom also knew of some good porgy scores made halfway between the power plant and the Lilco loading platform and at the tip of Sand City. Loads of blues two miles north of the platform in 80' of water being taken on jig and tube combos. Fish run anywhere from 4 to 15 lbs. The area north of 11B has been productive, as well as the Obstruction Buoy where weaks in the 10 lb. class have also taken up residence. Tom said that green has been the hot color on the tubes. Plenty of snappers from local docks.

Captain Jim Yeager of the **Hi Hook** reported good catches of blues and weaks being made at the obstruction buoy on jig and tube combos. Some weaks and an occasional fluke mixed with blues at buoy 13 and Eatons Neck. Sand City continues to produce porgies and flounder for the sinker bouncers. Worms account for most of the fish.

GLEN COVE

Dave the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** reported super snapper fishing all over the area with most snapper fans concentrating their efforts at the Prybil Pier. Porgies up to 1¼ lbs. in good supply on sandy bottom areas towards Bayville. Dave added that the largest trout in this category of the shop contest is a 1 lb. 2oz. fish. Dave figures this fish is ripe to be toppled in the next couple of weeks.



NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★

BLUES

CITY ISLAND

Capt. Joe of the **Ebb Tide II** reports that he had a very good porgy day Saturday working Lloyd's, Eaton's and Smithtown. Fish were decent size and Joe says a few blackfish are now starting to show also.

Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** reported boatmen found some blues in the 8 lb. class at Stepping Stone Light and Execution Light this weekend. Snappers continue to keep most anglers in the area occupied and there is also an abundance of sand porgies around.

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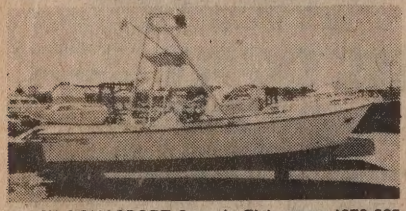


24' 6" AQUASPORT Console Fisherman 1976 225 Mercruiser and Anodized Tuna Tower. Teak package; head; rod holders. New cushions, compass, and more. $7200. 516-728-0816 or 931-1317.

16' DIXIE r.h. console open fisherman; 1974 Evinrude 70 h.p. rebuilt Aug. '80. Live bait well; fish and storage boxes. All gauges; depth finder. Bimini top and Certified hid. trailer to tow it. All excellent! $2900. 516-536-4325.

22' AQUASPORT '73 w/'76 Johnson 200 h.p. V-6 250 hrs.; SST Prop, Raytheon DF, CB, rod holders, gauges, canvas. Paid slip at Hi-Way Marina, E. Moriches. Clean; available now. $6500 or Best Offer. Full line of fishing equipment also available. D. Hoffman, 212-980-5252. Home: 212-744-1891. Wkends. 516-878-4301.

26' 1977 FIBERFOAM 325 h.p. OMC 190 hrs. Paper Rec.; VHS, FM 8 track, 10' beam. Galley; head; sleeps 4; swim plat., dual batt. Fish box; Navy top. Power winch. Big. Great fishing boat, plus comfort. $15,500. Days. 212-366-7191. After 8PM 516-BA 3-8676, Sat., Sun., any time.

1978 AQUASPORT 22' 6" Merc. 200 h.p. Black Max; also 10 h.p. Merc. Auxiliary motor; DF-Fish record, CB, VHF. Full canvas enclosure. Winter cover. Dual batteries; outriggers; downriggers. $10,500 Eves. 212-229-6250.

'77 GRADY WHITE 21' 9" Chesapeake Cuddy Cabin, I/O. Fully equipped. Only $10,750. 669-4370 till 9PM.

DRUMMOND Sport Fisherman 22' 1974 Fiberglas 6 cyl. Diesel Volvo and 270 Volvo outdrive. Dual batteries & dual battery switch. Cuddy Cabin. Ship-to-Shore radio; CB, fathometer; 365 hrs. on engine since new. Hydraulic trim tabs. $5800. 914-668-4819.

CHESAPEAKE BAY SKIPJACK 45' two-sail Bateau of traditional design and best materials. Under construction by the builder of Pride of Baltimore. Suitable for work or pleasure. 301-592-2505.

17' Fiberglas boat 75 h.p. motor. In good running condition with trailer. Full canvas, compass, CB, antenna, anchor. Many more extras. Clean; must be seen to appreciate. Must sell. $1250. After 7PM 516-543-0136.

SHAMROCK 25' 9". Taking orders for Pilot House or Open Fisherman. Gas or diesel. Shamrock 20', all models in stock. Two leftover: 1979 Open Fisherman. ROVINA, 516-728-0922.

19' 1969 Fiberglas SEABREEZE with trailer. Completely rebuilt 1970; 70 h.p. Chrysler outboard. Asking $2650. Days 757-3236. Eves. & weekends 261-1545. Northport, NY.

WANTED: 1972 - 1974 17' Boston Whaler Montauk. Reasonably priced. 516-796-5290.

EGG HARBOR 1960 31' Sportfisherman, twin 6 FWC Palmers, VHF, depth finder. Many extras. $6500. 516-226-4299.

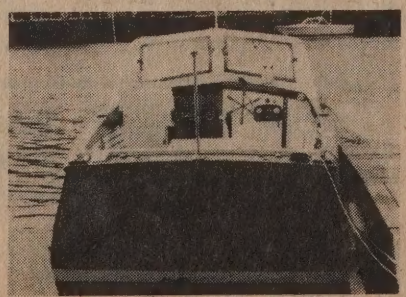
DIESEL—DIESEL—DIESEL

Detroit Diesel; Diesel parts and equipment at the lowest prices & fastest service on the East Coast. Many small diesels also available. OLSEN DIESEL ENGINE CORP., 60 South Montgomery Ave., Bay Shore. 516-665-5599.

1976 MAKO 115 Evinrude, S/S T-Top; CB, VHF, flasher and paper recorders. Many extras. $8000. Call days 212-699-4501.

1973 30' OLSEN. Excellent condition. New FWC Crusader. Teak decks, VHF, CB, Ross. Evenings 516-431-9410.

MAKO 23' 1976 Cuddy model, CB, D/F; 188 Merc. Loaded w/extras. Bristol condition throughout. $7800. 516-MO 1-9363.



23' Custom MORGAN Sea Skiff, 250 h.p. Crusader inboard. Rebuilt transmission; new prop; dual batteries. Lovette automatic bilge pump; 35 gal. gas tank. Cedar on Oak every 6". Pulpit, outriggers. Mint condition. Will demonstrate. $3000. Dennis, 516-623-5864 Eves.

GRADY-WHITE 1979 24' Weekender; OMC 260 I/O, VHF, compass, depth recorder. Like new. Days. 914-478-2990. Eves. & Wkends. 212-359-6021.

25' CHRIS CRAFT Tournament Fisherman. New twin 130 h.p. inboards. Tuna tower; full enclosure. depth recorder, CB, VHF, Gauge. Clean. $10,000. Days: 516-732-4060. Eves. & Wk.ends. 516-325-1560.

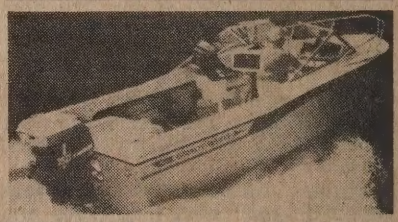
1979 REGAL 211XL 21' 198 h.p. Merc. I/O; SS Prop; swim platform; DF; rod holders, outriggers, '79 Shoreline E-Z Load trailer, w/H.D. Power winch. Sink & Icebox. Excellent cond. $12,500. At dealer. 543-1234.

1967 CHRIS CRAFT Cutlass 1979, 250 h.p. SWC engine, tiller, stern control, VHF, CB and more. Boat just painted. $5500. 212-347-3852.

27' Fiberglas Sportcraft 1971. Repowered 1979; 125 hrs. FWC 325 h.p. Mercruiser inboard. Cuddy cabin, head; elec. winch. Dual die-hards. New steering. Huge cockpit; 160 gal. fuel. In water. Extra clean; dependable. $7000. 212-468-0174.

1970 GRADY WHITE Chesapeake, 21' I/O V8, cuddy. Newly rebuilt engine. Fully equip. for fishing. Ross straight line, flasher, CB, compass. Dual batteries. Excellent. $6000. With trailer $7900. 516-541-5050.

New in 1978. 24' Proline Cuddy, 140 h.p. Evinrude. Very low hrs.; CB, VHF, graph & flasher recorder. Navy top, side curtains and all safety equipt. E-Z Loader trailer #23HT5300, carrying capacity 5300 lbs., gross load 7000 lbs. Boat & m. $6500. Trailer $2000. Buy pkg. or separately. Negotiable. 914-434-4265. 516-239-9112 after 7PM.



GRADY-WHITE 19' Tarpon. Quick planing, low power open bow Fisherman. Special deal available. Official Grady-White, Johnson, OMC Dealer. New Grady-White's in stock. Also, see the Privateer—a professional work and fishing center console, at low cost. Authorized repairs, mooring, winter storage. EDDIE'S MARINE (Est. 1940), 210 Beach 2nd St., Lawrence. 212-327-3168.

Boat "TUFFY" For Sale: Olsen 28' White Cedar Lapstrake hull, 125 h.p. Crown 2 to 1 reduction, 18" wheel. Freshwater cooled, maximum silencer muffler; 3 station controls, flybridge; 2 Monel 25 gal. gas tanks. Large Monel insulated fish box; glass outriggers. All Coast Guard equipment. Radio and flasher. $3000. Bill Bunz, 516-668-5223

21' STAMAS, 140 h.p. Johnson Cuddy Cabin w/head; VHF and CB radios. Depth sounder. Full canvas. Loaded w/extras. Excellent condition. 212-357-9557.

29' 1971 Olsen "SHEARWATER" Mint condition; 255 Merc. Cedar on oak, teak decks, fully outfitted. Must see. Priced to sell. 516-678-5746. 516-431-8021.

1974 CHRIS CRAFT 23' Tournament Fisherman. Excellent condition; 200 h.p. inboard. Lots of extras. $10,200. Call 212-697-3599 Weekday evenings after 6PM.

1978 25' MAKO, 235 h.p. Johnson, S.S. Prop., outriggers, downriggers. Chart recorder, VHF, bilge pump, washdown. Custom console W/Cover. Bimini; anchor; 124 gal. fuel. Mint condition. $15,700. Call 201-833-2600 9AM to 5PM wkdays. 201-768-0561 after 7PM.

1977 Bruno & Stillman - Charterboat "SEA DOLL." Too many extras to list. Loaded. $95,000. Immaculate! Ready to fish! 516-724-2045.

24' 1963 TROJAN F/B Cruiser. Repowered 1975, FWC, 200 h.p. in water; very good condition. $2500 Firm. 516-485-1120.

New 1980 LUND Aluminum boat and new 1980 SPIRIT Outboards. Dockage available to 26'. Five minutes from Shinnecock Inlet. SUNSHINE MARINE, 23 Rampasture Road, Hampton Bays, N.Y. 11946. 516-728-1339.

Custom Built, 28x9 Deep V, glas over plywood; FWC. Two bunks; head. All gear & electronics included. Surveyed at $15,000. Serious offers considered. Copies of survey - full details & insurance document furnished upon request. 583-8048; 587-7795.

GRADY-WHITE '76 20' Center Console. "Fisherman's Delight." Great offshore boat; like new, never docked. '76 200 h.p. Johnson O/B. Canvas cuddy, Shoreline Trailer; VHF, depth finder, power winch. Teak rod holders. Many extras. Garaged. Immaculate. Must see. Original owner; asking $8500. 516-249-2489.

1980 NEW EVINRUDES 1980
2-$260; 4-$399; 4.5-$470; 7.5-$588; 9.9-$730; 15-$823; 25-$988; 35-$1112; 50-$1650; 55-$1550; 60-$1788; 70-$1900; 85-$2200; 115-$2365; 140-$2485; 150-$3100; 175-$3276; 200-$3348; 235-$3548. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere.

1980 SUZUKI OUTBOARDS
2-$259; 5-$498; 8-$595; 9.9-$700; 16-$800; 25-$899; 40-$1149; 50-$1499; 65-$1799; 85 oil injected - $2295. 85s include power tilt & trim. h.p. rated at propeller in water on all models. FOB/D.H. SOUTH SHORE SUZUKI, 41 W. Sunrise Hwy., Freeport, N.Y. 516-868-3111.

20' 6" 1977 WELLCRAFT, Center Console, 175 h.p. Mercury with power trim. Apelco chart recorder, compass, CB; all gauges. Automatic bilge; 2 batteries w/switch. Will demo. Must Sell. Asking $6600. Days. 212-267-3783; Eves. 516-826-2138.

CONCORDE 35' Fiberglass, Flybridge. Express cruiser. Large cockpit; loaded. Call for specs. $30M before end of August. 516-825-3955.

MAKO 20' Twin 65 h.p. Johnson. Shoreline galvanized trailer. Full canvas; Richie compass. All CG equip.; dual batteries, VHF, Gemtronics, whiteline fish finder. Bilge pump; rod holders, knife rack. Many extras. Perfect fishing machine. In water; in use. $6000. 212-648-8950.

BOATING EQPT.

REDER'S—Now at 236 Woodcleft Ave., Freeport. Resin - 2 gal. $27.95; Fiberglas cloth - $3.50 yrd.; boat/truck covers - $.16 to $.29 a ft.; Fatigues - $5.95. 516-378-9578.

TRAILER HITCHES—The most complete Draw-tite line of Class I & II hitches in stock in L.I. Sales, installations & service. TOM CASH WELDING, Lake Ronkonkoma. 516-JU 8-6143.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie Compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

FOR SALE: Pompanette Teak top fishbox with ballyhoo tray, 47" long. Like new condition. $200. 516-248-5649; 516-294-0483.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single and tandem axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & Permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-06 Broadway, Woodside, NY 212-426-7039.

MISCELLANEOUS

WANTED: Mates, part-time weekdays. Must be experienced. BLUE FIN FLEET, 212 or 516-352-2986.

FISHERMEN'S BELT BUCKLES—Solid pewter. Beautiful antique brass finish. Striper, bluefish, tuna, porgy, fluke/flounder, shark, harpoon head. Really beautiful! $7 ea. P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

Mobile Service engine and transmission rebuilding. Rebuilt starters and alternators. Lawrence B. Fels, Marine engine specialist. 516-766-4345.

BOAT INSURANCE—Wide range of coverage for pleasure and commercial vessels. Personal Service. Excess Insurance. Call: 516-489-9083. GBZ COMPANY, 507 Chestnut St., West Hempstead, N.Y. 11552.

Reclining chair. Good condition. $30. 826-3006.

WHOLESALE MARINE SUPPLIES. Marine fasteners wholesale. Stainless, Silicon bronze. Complete line. O-Rings, shop parts, Grade 5, 8, farm, industrial fasteners. Free Catalog and delivery Suffolk County. 516-281-3366. ARON-MARINE, 61 Mastic Beach, NY 11951.

FREE CATALOG—Fishermen's pewter belt buckles. P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

Marine Transport—T.K.'s BOAT HAULING. You call; we haul! 24 hr. Emergency Service. Local & Long Distance; launching and hauling at any desired location. Up to 35'. Fully insured carrier. Call: T.K., 516-623-2967.

BOAT INSURANCE—All risk; 12-month policy with unrestricted navigational limits. Extremely competitive rates. Quick quotations. PAUL KRAUSE, 145 Higbie Lane, West Islip, New York 11795. 516-587-7837.

Al Grover's will broker ANY reasonably priced Mako and move it fast. All new Makos in stock—always/ AL GROVER'S, 195 Woodcleft Ave., Freeport, N.Y. 11520. 516-FR 8-0510.

FOR CAPTAINS ONLY! If you are licensed, you can wear this fine Schiffli embroidered emblem on your jackets, shirts, etc. Send $2.95 for each, to CAPT. PAGET, 477 Waukena Ave., Oceanside, New York 11572.

REAL ESTATE

EAST HAMPTON, Three-Mile Harbor—Large, energy efficient, multi-level, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room, fireplace. Oversized 2-car garage for marine storage. Immaculate. Steps to deeded bulkheaded boat dock. $89,500. 324-3904. 928-8620.

NANTUCKET ISLAND—Fall Rental: 3 bedrooms & sleeping loft; full kitchen, hot and cold water. Heated; newly renovated. Available weekends, weekly, or monthly. $40 per day. Call Barbara Spencer at 617-257-4485 before Oct. 7th. 212-777-2817 Eves., or 212-556-1444 Days after Oct. 7th.

FISHING TACKLE

DELUXE FISHING RIGS—Complete with sinker loop and tie-in swivel: doormat fluke, bulldog blackfish, porgy, flounder, weakfish. 3 rigs/$3.50. Hi-Lo rigs: fluke/weakfish, blackfish/sea bass, whiting/ling, flounder/porgy. 3 rigs/$3.95. Check or M.O.: SPENCER'S RIGS, 573 East 28th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210.

Catch more fish...with superior designed salt-water rigs. Send for free catalog now!!! HUDSON TACKLE, Dept I, P. O. Box 437, Kearny, NJ 07032

FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS: Flounders are committing suicide on this famous 3-hook rig especially designed for the "meat fisherman." Special design and construction keeps tangles at a minimum. All hand-made; finest quality material. Three completely tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or M.O. to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

Would you like to have the perfect metal lures that all fishermen are looking for. One that is the best for jigging or trolling, and casts the farthest. One that carries the surgi-tube, rubber fish tails and pork rind the best? One that won't spin, sink or plane up. With no rod action or swivels, they swim zigzag with a flashing wobble, just like an injured fish that all game fish in fresh or salt water will go for as an easy meal. The Spug, Sico, Veeny & Demo, a swimming popper, has all these patented features. Try one; money back guarantee. If you have indigestion, heartburn, ulcers or hiatus hernia; the lining of your stomach and intestines is being slowly eaten away. For a permanent cure, send your receipt for $10 worth of the above lures to the MINNOE LURE CO., Box 98, Milford, Ct. or $10 (Save hundreds of dollars for relief).

FLUKE KILLER RIGS—Beware of imitations. The ultimate in deadly, double hook design. Long the secret of the "Pros." You will hook more and lose fewer fluke, since fish can't avoid fully adjustable tail hook. All hand tied; finest materials. Pays for itself in fluke dinners. 3 rigs for $3.50. P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

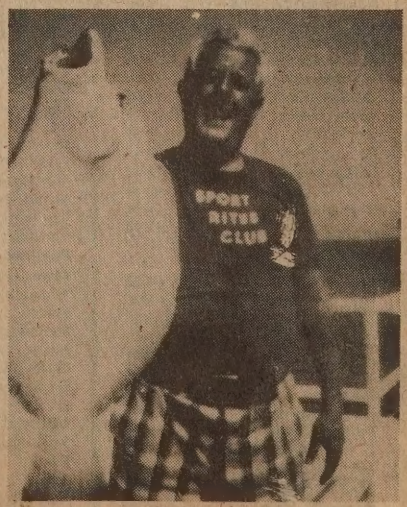
STOP LOSING fish, lures, lines! Fishing Knots Manual shows step-by-step, best proven knots, end-loops, droppers, splices, for sea, lake, stream. $3.00. REDLAC COMPANY, Box 357, Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

NEWELL REELS—Fall striper and bluefish high-speed specials. Models 229F and 332F - $70 each. Also, Bowhunter Special: 4-wheel compound - $140. Everything unused. 516-541-7377 Eves.

FOR SALE: Brand new Penn Squidder 140M, left-hand retrieve. Also Penn Beachmaster 155M, also left-hand retrieve. Both never used. 212-699-0592. $60.

BEACH BUGGIES

'76 CHEVY BLAZER, 350, auto.; 4-speed exc. orig. cond. Garaged. $4000. 212-347-3852.



This 11 lb. fluke surprised Tom DeMartino when it took a sandworm aboard the City Island party boat "Ebb Tide."

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	10:10	10:35	10:55	11:20	10:55	11:15	11:40	–	1:05	1:30	1:05	1:30	10:10	10:30	8/28
FRI.	11:05	11:30	11:45	–	11:50	–	12:05	12:30	1:55	2:20	2:00	2:25	11:00	11:20	8/29
SAT.	–	12:00	12:10	12:40	12:10	12:45	1:00	1:30	2:50	3:15	2:50	3:20	11:55	–	8/30
SUN.	12:25	12:55	1:05	1:40	1:05	1:40	2:00	2:30	3:50	4:15	3:50	4:15	12:20	12:50	8/31
MON.	1:20	1:50	2:05	2:45	2:05	2:35	3:00	3:30	5:05	5:35	4:50	5:20	1:15	1:50	9/1
TUE.	2:25	2:55	3:10	3:50	3:05	3:35	4:10	4:40	6:35	7:05	5:55	6:25	2:20	2:55	9/2
WED.	3:25	3:55	4:20	4:55	4:10	4:40	5:20	5:45	7:50	8:20	7:05	7:30	3:25	3:55	9/3
THUR.	4:35	5:00	5:30	6:00	5:15	5:40	6:25	6:45	8:50	9:15	8:10	8:30	4:25	4:55	9/4

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

8/29	6:23	7:39
8/30	6:24	7:37
8/31	6:25	7:35
9/1	6:26	7:33
9/2	6:27	7:32
9/3	6:28	7:30
9/4	6:29	7:28

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
9/9	9/17	9/24	9/1

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	7:10	1:20	7:30	1:55
Fri.	8:10	2:20	8:30	2:50
Sat.	9:05	3:20	9:30	3:50
Sun.	10:05	4:20	10:30	4:45
Mon.	11:00	5:20	11:30	5:50
Tues.	—	6:10	12:05	6:40
Wed.	12:20	7:05	12:55	7:30
Thurs.	1:15	7:55	1:45	8:20

SURF REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

While a week of northeast winds certainly got the adrenalin pumping, it did little to spur surf action at this early date. A repeat of last week's weather in mid-September would surely yield a different outcome. Small blues continue to dominate most of the reports received this week. Hopefully this picture will change in the weeks to come.

In the State Island area, Lennie told me from **Santos Sport Shop** that the only action along area beaches has been with blues in the 1-3 lb. class taken near the South Beach storm sewer, at Gateway Park and along the Princess Bay shore line. Small tins and also small bunker chunks have been taking the fish. Lenny called the surf dead otherwise, with even the big blues which were being taken in the early morning hours from the piers pulling a disappearing act.

In the Sheepshead Bay area, Charlie told me from **Mike's Bait and Tackle** that casters working along the Belt Parkway shore line have been taking blues in the 8 lb. class on live porgies after dark. No word on any bass being taken in the area.

Down at West End Jones Beach, small blues in the 4-5 lb. class have been making a showing in the evening hours, according to Lon at **Wanser's Tackle Shop** in Seaford. Those casters that he has spoken to reported taking their fish on tins between 6PM and dark.

Jolene told me from **The Store** at Oak Beach told me that Bob Smith weighed in a 9¾ lb. striper which he took on a RedFin at Cedar. Felix Gombs used a live snapper cast from the same Cedar Beach shore to put away a 10½ lb. weakfish over the weekend. "Poppy" and Danny the mailman have been scoring with weaks up to 9 lbs. on tin nearly every morning at the Sore Thumb.

While the fishing is hit or miss, casters continue to get in some good innings with 2 to 3 lb. blues on the inside of Democrat. Weakfish occasionally putting in an appearance here also.

Out east, Dick told me from his Mastic Beach Tackle Shop that there was a good showing of 5-6 lb. blues down towards the inlet on Thursday. Casters using tins did well with the fish. He said that smaller fish in the 2 lb. range, come and go and are also being taken on tin.

Out in Shinnecock, Thom at **Speck's Tackle Shop** reported a few small bass up to 7 or 8 lbs. along with some shorts taken inside the inlet from the back of the jetty on mackerel finished Rebels and RedFins. Some blues in the 6-10 lb. class moving up and down Southampton's Ocean beaches and being taken on tins and popping plugs. This is a matter of being in the right place at the right time. No word on weakfish being taken from area beaches this past week, but Thom figured that a roiled surf, stirred up by a week of northeast winds probably had something to do with it.

Johnny told me from his Montauk landmark, that there was a showing of small blues, mostly 2 lbers. at Shagwong. A full moon, strong winds and a big heave combined to create unfishable conditions up front for the better part of the weekend. Along the south side, a few bass from 10-18 lbs. in the vicinity of Dead Man's Cove taken early in the week before it started blowing, but nothing since then.

North Shore

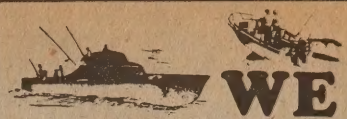
While I doubt it would start a stampede to the area, it may come as a surprise to hear that Bill DiBlasio connected with a 14 lb. bluefish while fishing from the 33rd St. pier on the Hudson River Friday night. Bill's brother Guy who reported the catch, told me that the big chopper took a sand worm meant for a striper.

From his City Island Tackle Shop, Greg told me that on Sunday morning, Artie Smerz connected with four big blues up to 15 lbs. on poppin plugs fishing in the cove at Orchard Beach. On Saturday morning, another caster clicked with a pair of 14 lbers. and dropped three others in the same general area. Greg said that the big choppers made their appearance for the first time Friday night and expects they will be around for the next week or two if past years are any indication. Last of outgoing water and bunker chunks or poppers after daybreak are the right combination. Casters continue to take bass from shorts up to 5 lbs. out of Turtle Cove on Rebels and sand worms.

Ronnie Ferrara told me from his Huntington Tackle Shop that the surf has been quiet in his area as it has been for most of the summer. He did look over a catch of 2 small weaks taken on worms by Sid Splatozek. Sid took the fish at Marshall Field Saturday morning.

In the Northport area, Tom of **Bowman's Sporting Goods** said that blues in the 1-3 lb. class come and go along the beach at Crabmeadow and down to the power plant. Best chance to score is in the early AM or evening hours. No word on any weaks or bass.

Stan told me from his **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** that small blues come and go along area beaches. Small weaks are occasionally mixed with the choppers. The Tri-Fin Spoon jig has been a killer whenever the fish make an appearance. A few short stripers scattered through the area, some even being taken by kids while snapper fishing. Rumors of some bass action to the east in the vicinity of Wading River, but Stan had nothing solid to go by.



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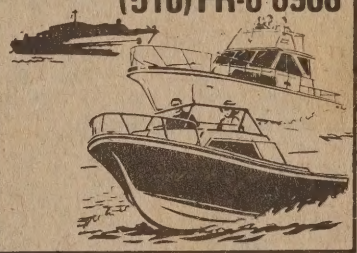

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